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JOHN BULL

Vol. XIV. No. 350. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1913. ONE PENNY

(Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.)

For meaning of this No. see Page III. of Cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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OUR GREAT
FOOTBALL
PRIZE.

See page 249.

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See page 249.

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Bolton Wanderers	v.	Blackburn Rovers
Chelsea	v.	Manchester City.
Liverpool	v.	Derby County.
Newcastle	v.	Everton.
Notts County	v.	Sunderland.
Oldham	v.	West Bromwich.
Sheffield United	v.	Sheffield Wednesday.
Clapton Orient	v.	Bristol City.
Glossop	v.	Birmingham.
Hull City	v.	Huddersfield.
Lincoln City	v.	Notts Forest.
Stockport County	v.	Bury.
Wolverhampton W.	v.	Barnsley.
Brighton and Hove	v.	Reading.
Merthyr	v.	Crystal Palace.
Portsmouth	v.	Northampton.
Swindon	v.	Queen's Park R.
Watford	v.	Plymouth.
West Ham	v.	Norwich.

I enter JOHN BULL Football Competition in accordance with the rules announced on page, 209, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

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Address .....

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Vol. XIV. No. 350. Week ending Saturday, February 15th, 1913. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters. All **FINANCIAL, INSURANCE** *and* **SPORTING** *enquiries should be addressed to the* **CITY OFFICES, 52, NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.** *All other communications should be addressed to* **93, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.**

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The John Bull League.

The PRESIDENT,
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, ESQ.,
WILL ADDRESS A PUBLIC MEETING
AT THE FREE TRADE HALL, MANCHESTER,
ON FRIDAY, 14th FEBRUARY.

Doors open 7 p.m. **ADMISSION FREE.** Chair to be taken by Councillor H. ROSS CLYNE at 8 p.m. ORGAN RECITAL 7.10 to 8 p.m. Tickets may be obtained from the Local Secretary, Mr. F. WARDLE, 5 Woodlands Road, Gorton, Manchester; the Local Chairman, Mr. H. ROSS CLYNE, 4, Rusholme Place, Manchester; or from the General Secretary, John Bull League, Grosvenor Hotel, Manchester, upon receipt of a stamped addressed envelope. Admission at 7.30 upon production of this journal.

GLASGOW AND DISTRICT BRANCH.

THE PRESIDENT
WILL ADDRESS A PUBLIC MEETING
AT ST. ANDREW'S HALL, GLASGOW,
ON FRIDAY, 21st FEBRUARY.

Doors open 7 p.m. **ADMISSION FREE** to Unreserved Seats.
ORGAN RECITAL, 7.10 to 8 p.m.
Tickets for reserved seats, price 1s., may be obtained from the Local Secretary Mr. H. McCONE, 122?, Springburn Road, Glasgow, or from the General Secretary, John Bull League, 93, Long Acre, W.C., upon receipt of a Stamped and addressed envelope.
The entire proceeds from the sale of reserved seats go to the local funds.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[*The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.*]

Wise Counsel.

In commenting on the Burton case the other day we ventured to express the opinion—which we repeat—that Mr. McCall and Mr. Willoughby Williams were not an ideal combination. We described them as two of the "weakest men at the Bar." We understand that a consultation took place as to the nature of the proceedings to be launched against us, and that in the end—*à la* Percy Scott—it was decided to do—nothing.

A Bad Sign.

Mr. Birrell assures us that the Cabinet is a nest of love-birds—they all love their leader. But he did not say, in express terms, that they all love each other. Ask Lulu!

We DON'T Think.

Germany is satisfied with Mr. Churchill's standard of British naval supremacy—and the silly Press swallows it!

Those Ships.

Wake up, Canada! And, above all, do not tell us that, in view of Germany's latest declaration, your proposed gift is no longer necessary!

Sir Percy Scott.

We are still awaiting Sir Percy's writ. We have charged him with treason to his chief, when in active command, and last week we suggested that he is a coward as well as a sneak. A nice accusation for an "officer and a gentleman" to take lying down!

Less Whiting and No Cod.

During a recent debate in the House, Mr. Birrell said he would not paraphrase one of Mr. Gladstone's arguments lest it be said that he was "a little fish trying to blow like a whale." So wise and excellent a simile might be extended. What about all the cod of the House?

Coming Events.

Trouble is brewing in South Africa. The merest ripple only of the Hertzog-Botha incident has reached the British Press—whilst, as a matter of fact, the whole Dominion has been stirred to its depths. We hope that Lord Gladstone is keeping his ears and eyes well open and that the Colonial Office is aware of what is going on. Beware of Brother Boer!

Labour Journalism.

How long is the scandal of the *Daily Citizen* to continue? Here is a publication run on amateur lines, losing probably £2,000 a week, and subsidised by the pence of working men—in many cases without their consent, and perhaps even without their knowledge. We call upon Mr. Arthur Henderson, M.P., the Chairman of the Company, to stop the business without further delay. His line is preaching—not journalism. Here is an illustration: A week or two ago, at the Doctors' Meeting at the Queen's Hall, amongst the speakers who strongly denounced the Insurance Act and described Mr. Lloyd George in language which would have cheered the heart of his most virulent opponent, was a Dr. J. T. Macnamara. The following day the *Citizen* published an interview with this medico, under the impression that he was Doctor T. J. Macnamara, *the Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty*, and honorary Doctor of Laws, and after making a muddle of the date and place of meeting, gave various details of his early struggles in the *medical* profession, ending up with the reminder that they were now all over, and that he "draws a salary of £2,000 a year!" They will be having an interview with Professor Bottomley next—giving his experiences in the Law Courts!

Our Great Football Pension Prize is GUARANTEED AT LLOYD'S.

A Snub for the "News."

The *Daily News and Leader* has just received a well-merited snub at the hands of the Bishop of London and the Rev. F. B. Meyer. It recently proposed to make some impertinent inquiries into the church-going habits of the citizens of London, by taking a census of the attendance at all the metropolitan places of worship on a certain day; and was pluming itself after its characteristically smug, complacent fashion on the good such an inquiry would effect, when a letter arrived, signed jointly by the Bishop and Mr. Meyer, protesting against the projected "numbering of the people"—in the following trenchant trems:—

> We feel that to focus attention upon the statistical aspect of worship is injurious to the very spirit of worship, and that a chief effect of the enumeration of worshippers would be to revive and accentuate those divisions and that denominational temper which in recent years have happily been greatly modified. We desire very earnestly to represent our conviction that such a census would be inimical to the highest interests of the Christian Church, and most strongly urge that the proposal of the census should be laid aside.

Quite right. Let our hilarious contemporary confine itself to the legitimate functions of a newspaper, obtain a few more whisky advertisements, improve its racing columns, and studiously refrain from poking its long and inquisitive nose into so purely private and personal a matter as the religious habits of the Londoner. Besides, such a census would only serve to accentuate the fact that nowadays most people go to church—*at home*.

Only a Game.

"Win the election if you can, lodge a petition if you can't, and bring a libel action if you can't do either," seems to be the motto of some Parliamentary aspirants. Happily, most juries have a sense of humour. Captain Moorhouse contested the Hythe Division last July, and was badly beaten by Sir Philip Sassoon. During the contest a poster was issued in the form af a racing skit, the two candidates being likened to rival horses. It was a Conservative poster and Sassoon was, therefore, said to be "by Empire-Maker out of Colonial Preference," Moorhouse being "by Empire-Breaker out of Welsh Thief." Questionable taste, perhaps, but good enough, we should have thought, in an election skit. Captain Moorhouse, however, was mortally affronted, and he determined to "have the law of" the man who issued the poster. Now he has the consolation of being beaten at law as well as at politics, and the defendant's costs to pay for his pains. All this is quite as it should be. No sane man would hold that such horse-play was actionable, whatever may be said of it on grounds of delicacy of taste. As for the expression "Welsh Thief," to which Captain Moorhouse seemed to take particular objection, we should have thought it obviously directed at, not the gallant Captain, but a much more eminent ——! But we are too busy to attend to a libel action just now.

The New Socialism.

We have always understood that Socialism meant the placing in the hands of the State the control of the sources of supply, production and distribution. Now, however, we have a conference of members of Trade Unions and Co-operative Societies to consider the best means of "raising the economic status of the people," and one of the questions to be discussed is the "placing in the hands of the workers the control of the sources of supply, production and distribution." We know what is meant by "the workers"—but fortunately the definition would exclude many of the so-called Labour Leaders.

Judge and Jury.

We recently called attention to a case in which a High Court Judge had set aside the considered verdict of a jury and ordered a prisoner to undergo the ordeal of a second trial. The calendar of the forthcoming Old Bailey Sessions furnishes another instance of this practice. Last Sessions a man was put on trial for the murder of a woman. The jury found that he certainly killed the woman, but "without intent to murder." Presumably, this amounts to the lesser crime of manslaughter. Mr. Justice Darling set the verdict of the jury entirely aside, and the prisoner after some weeks of suspense will again be placed in jeopardy of his life. Many men would rather be hanged. If the verdict of a jury is to be set aside and treated as of no account, unless it happens to accord with the views of the presiding judge, there is an end of trial by jury. As well dispense with the services of jurymen altogether and make the judge the sole arbiter of innocence or guilt. If, on the other hand, it be a sound principle that the jury should decide the facts and the judge the law, then it is time that an emphatic protest were entered against judicial usurpation of the rights and functions of jurymen. By the law of England, every man has an undoubted right to be tried by his peers. We cannot believe that Englishmen will willingly surrender their liberties into the hands of the judiciary.

Bishop of the Falklands.

In the course of a long letter in the "nu speling" from Port Stanley in the Falklands, we gather that the Bishop of that diocese has thought better of resigning, as he threatened to do, in his pique at not receiving the £100,000 he expected as the full fruits of his extraordinary campaign of cadging in England. It seems that "the insistent call to continue his work compels him to return." According to our informant, nobody in the Falklands sent his lordship to beg ha'pence in England. "We pay our parsons out of our own pockets," he says, "and don't want what ought to be given to the poor souls starving at home." This we are delighted to hear, though we would rather not hear it in the "nu speling"—which we have disregarded. Our regards to the Falkland Island parsons and all congregations committed to their charge. By the way, another correspondent (in Punta Arenas) tells us that "when the Bishop was travelling on one of the P.S.N.C. boats he complained to the captain because the stewards did not address him as 'your lordship.'" Good Lord!

Punishment for Prophets.

What fun it will be to read racing articles when Lord Newton's Bill becomes law! If it be made illegal to give selections, it must equally become criminal to express any opinion about the chances possessed by any horse. At this rate, we shall soon have to be silent about the capabilities of football players, indeed of any sort of sportsman; and perhaps, to be logical, about the chances of the Home Rule Bill or of a war between Roumania and Bulgaria. Later on, we may have further legislation to forbid any expression of opinion in public places. It may even become dangerous for a man to prognosticate that his wife will present him with twins. What a happy land is England! In another column will be found an article showing how the best laid schemes of the kill-sports are bound to "gang a-gley."

"All-British" Aeroplanes.

Much fuss has been made in the Press lately regarding the "All-British" aeroplanes for the Army. We are credibly informed that three only were British—the remaining seven having been imported from France. Rule, Britannia.

"Bullets" the STRAIGHT Competition with most Prizes. See page 254.

Beware!

Mr. Fred [illegible] Gloucester Road (Bristol) newsagent, tells us of an incident which occurred in his shop the other day. A boy came in and asked for a JOHN BULL. Having obtained it, he went out, but presently returned with the paper and asked for the return of his penny, saying it was not the issue his mother wanted. Mrs. Thorne looked through the paper before returning the money, and then found that the leaf containing the football coupon had been torn out. Needless to say, the lad had to whistle for his penny. As a matter of fact, we found such wholesale variants of this interesting trick that, as will be seen, we have callously checkmated it.

Mrs. Pankhurst, Mustardette.

After the husband of Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, the charming Mrs. Pankhurst: "We must either have a Government measure granting women's suffrage immediately or a dissolution," she told a meeting the other day. We do not think the dear lady will get either. The "musting" business may go down well enough at a meeting of excited women, but Mr. Asquith is not likely to take his orders from a mustardette; even though she *is*, to use a common expression of the street, "o—t, 'ot."

Inciting to Public Disorder.

May we remind the Law Officers of the Crown that Mrs. Pankhurst is still inciting to public disorder? Out of her own mouth she again convicted herself at the London Pavilion of being engaged in a conspiracy to that end. "The Women's Social and Political Union," she said, "are busy with their civil war"; and after congratulating her "soldiers" on their campaign of destruction on golf greens, she added, "we are preparing all sorts of other effective strokes." If it is civil war between these frenzied women and society, why should not society lock up this lady and her militant assistants, and end it? Think of a whole community being held up to ransom by these fearful feminine bandits, not knowing from day to day whether it is to be torn from seam to seam, smashed in its window panes, disturbed in its golf, or burgled of its pyjamas! The rumour now on the balmy breeze is that the mustardettes intend to kidnap Mr. Lloyd George and cast Mr. Winston Churchill into the deep and deadly Serpentine while he is in his beauty sleep. If this does not rouse the Government to action like one man, or even like two, the Kingdom is lost for ever; it is at one with Nineveh and Tyre.

Another Mustardette.

Another mustardette, Miss Annie Kenny, says that until a new Woman's Suffrage Bill has been introduced, neither Mr. Lloyd George nor Sir Edward Grey must be allowed to sleep in his bed. There you are again. This confirms what we have already said. But in whose beds *are* they to sleep? A nice beginning, this, to female government!

Holman's Own.

We beg to ask the Secretary of State for War how much longer he proposes to allow Colonel Holman—whose term expired three years ago—to remain in command of the 17th Battalion County of London Regiment?

Vicious Vicars.

We are asked by many readers if we have any other parsons to "put through the mill"—if so, what are their names, and which Churches do they belong to? The answer to the first portion of the question is in the affirmative, and to the second is—"Wait and See."

Two Sun-Days.

By a good majority, the coal miners of Northumberland and Durham have voted in favour of a five days' working week. Many people will look upon this as a sign of laziness—as the thin edge of the wedge for widening the holiday to half-a-week, or more. But we hope the miners will get their way. It is easy for critics to write before a comfortable fire. Their diatribes would be tempered with a little more reason and charity if they spent a week or two in the mines—hewing coal in a hell of dust and damp, with the possibility every morning of being a blackened corpse before night. We pay too little regard to the army of brave men—fishermen, sailors, miners, and the like—who administer to our creature comforts. The least they can ask is a good wage, with sufficient leisure to make their onerous burden bearable. Good luck to them!

L.C.C. Cranks.

The London County Council Elections will soon be upon us. We notice that the "milk and water" school are endeavouring to push their dog-in-the-manger policy to the fore and that it has already received the blessing of Sir John Benn, the "Progressive leader." Sir John gloats over the fact that a man cannot obtain a glass of beer at the London Hippodrome and "entirely agrees" with the suggestion that the sale of alcoholic liquors should be strictly prohibited in all places of amusement. London citizens who claim the right of drinking what suits them during their hours of relaxation will do well to keep an eye on those candidates whose idea of municipal politics is to ram their own fads down other people's throats.

Justice—and Mercy.

We have on more than one occasion commended the Hull Stipendiary for his humane way of reading mercy into justice. He has again a claim to our good word for his treatment of the case of a lad named Sandel, aged 15, charged with stealing five eggs, value 3d. According to the evidence, the lad's mother, a widow, had had to sell the home to buy food for her children, and when the boy took these eggs they were hungry and destitute. What in such a case is at once the right and merciful judgment? Obviously, that of this Hull Stipendiary. First, he lets off the boy with a warning, and secondly, he requests the probation officer to find him a job.

Weeping Willie.

Mr. Will Crooks has been talking to a P.S.A. "Don't swank!" is one of the precepts. We'll try not to, but it's a great temptation when one is editing a paper with a circulation of nearly a million a week. Moreover, we have never noticed that Mr. Crooks is a particularly modest man. He certainly does not claim to know everything, for he asks why the words: "Save the children: defend the poor," are carved over the portals of the Old Bailey. Perhaps if Mr. Crooks were to ask permission to visit the Bar mess, the gentlemen of the long robe would enlighten him on the point. Possibly, it's swank!

War Correspondence.

The War Correspondent of the *Mirror* appears to have recommenced his hazardous work promptly. "War again," says he, writing from Constanza in Rumania, January 28th, "and the smell of powder already hovers about the nostrils." Considering that he is miles away from the field, he must have the most powerful smeller of any correspondent who ever sniffed the battle from afar. Or perhaps it was washing day at Constanza and he mistook extract of soap for powder.

Two distinct Prizes for Football Skill, £6 a Week for Life and £600 Cash. See page 249

Spades for Clubs.

Even more ridiculous than the Party system is the Party-club. The average man joins a club for the sake of meeting friends or eating cheap meals or lounging over newspapers. The majority of members of political clubs know little about politics, and care less. In Liberal clubs you will find plenty of the active opponents of Liberalism. At the Reform, Devonshire and Brooks' a large number of Unionists have remained since the day when they called themselves Liberal-Unionists, and they have imported other members of their own kidney. At the National Liberal Club there are crowds of supporters of the Labour Party, who fight Liberals at elections tooth and nail. Why not admit frankly that there are no Party-clubs now? Perhaps their disappearance is an omen that Parties are nearing their grave.

A Lucky Hog.

It used to be said that Equity depended on the length of the Chancellor's foot. It is perfectly certain that justice is often made to depend on the whim of magistrate or judge. At the last Assizes at Gloucester a motorist was convicted of manslaughter. He was proved to have driven a motor car on the high road between Bristol and Gloucester at a speed of forty miles an hour, with a perfectly reckless disregard of the lives and limbs of pedestrians using the road, one of whom he ran over and killed. For this offence, scarcely distinguishable from murder, he was fined £20, although he had been convicted for motoring offences on nineteen previous occasions. We congratulate the criminal on the fact that he looked like a man who would have £20.

Clearing Up.

The dying London County Council have raised the stipend of the Chief of their Fire Brigade from £900 to £1,000 a year. We have no doubt that Lieutenant Sladen is a most excellent officer, but surely, all things considered, £900 was an adequate salary. When contracts for tram rails are given to German firms we are told that economy is the guiding principle of the Council's conduct, and that all other considerations must yield to the necessity of safeguarding the ratepayers' pockets. If this be the principle, it should surely be applied all round. Incidentally, we should like to know something about the wages of the *men* of the Fire Brigade.

Much Ado About Knout.

The romance of the Tsarevitch has had another development. We were the first to indicate that his mysterious illness was due to an outrage preventing him for ever hoping to have heirs. We said we did not know whether the guilty nurse had acted as an agent of Nihilists or of other heirs. Now we are inclined to absolve the Nihilists, for the Tsar has deprived his brother of all rights to the throne, a morganatic marriage being the pretext. Considering the origins of the House of Romanoff, His Imperial Majesty might have invented a better excuse.

The Socratic Method.

John Brown, convicted at the Middlesex Sessions of obtaining food, valued at 7d., by false pretences, was asked if he had anything to say. He had. "Now, sir," to the Chairman: "If you was out with your wife and got a drop too much to drink, you would ask her to look after your money, wouldn't you?" The six months' hard labour which Brown is now undergoing may serve to convince him that such hypothetical questions are distinctly ill-advised.

Oh, Law!

The law is really growing almost as ambiguous as Mr. Balfour. A Suffragist broke a window at Lambeth Palace and the Archbishop of Canterbury refused to prosecute. Accordingly, she was charged with "using insulting behaviour, whereby a breach of the peace might have been occasioned." But how could it have been occasioned? For, surely, an Archbishop who refuses to prosecute is not likely to have recourse to fisticuffs. The prosecutor argued that her behaviour was "insulting" because it took place "at the house of a person of high position." In other words, it might be a compliment to smash a draper's windows. The magistrate, discerning "a little difficulty" in the absurd charge, tried to bind the prisoner over in 40s. She refused to be so dealt with, and was accordingly removed to Holloway, under the statute 34 Edward III., cap. 1, "as a loose, idle *and* disorderly person." Note the word "and." No doubt she was disorderly, but there was no evidence of looseness or idleness.

Criminal Manufactories.

A report by a visiting justice at Wandsworth Prison contains the following sentence: "I assert without fear of contradiction that the manufacture of boys, youths and young men into habitual criminals is at this very moment going on with the full assent of the Home Office authorities, who refuse to move an inch in the direction of reform. Youths are thrust into Wandsworth . . . simply because they cannot pay prohibitive fines for trumpery offences." And now we hear of a gardener being sent to gaol for seven days in default of paying a fine of £1, imposed because his wife (without his knowledge) kept the eldest girl at home to look after the baby. And then there is the great number sent to suffer the degradation of imprisonment for trivial debts. In face of these facts, the interminable chatter goes on in the Talking Shop. How long will the people endure this farce of government?

The Split Infinitive.

We are rather partial to the split infinitive—as we are to the split "Polly." In many cases it is impossible to convey the right meaning without the split. Here are two examples:—"Our object is *to further* consul trade relations," and "we wish *to partly exclude* foreign goods." Will one of our very learned and punctilious readers tell us how these sentiments could have been expressed without splitting the infinitive?

Lenten Dietetics.

Dr. Yorke-Davies, the expert on what you should eat, says that he favours as a Lenten fast "such things as roast beef, chicken, vegetables, etc." Our readers may be interested to hear that this is how we are fasting, ourselves; in fact, it is how we fast all the year round. As a light, thoroughly religious aid to digestion, etc., it is one of the most desirable diets we know of.

Dr. W. S. McKechnie on Party.

Under the British Constitution, as moulded by recent events, the undivided supreme power always lies with one or other of the two parties that divide the State. . . . Democracy, far from embodying compromise, implies a monopoly of power by one-half of the people over the other half. Each party in turn is absolutely supreme, without let or hindrance. Sovereignty is no longer divided between King, Lords and Commons, but is concentrated in the leaders of the party in power on the one condition that they continue to lead. This is the fundamental fact to be kept in view in any analysis of the British Constitution of to-day.—(From "The New Democracy and the Constitution," 1912.)

Every "Bullet" Coupon is READ TWICE, Slowly and with Care.

A Question A

A Birmingham reader asks—apropos of an illustration we gave at our recent meeting, of prominent M.P.'s violently attacking each other across the floor of the House and then walking home arm-in-arm together—whether "under a Business Government those who were hostile in the House would remain the same outside." The answer is, that under a Business Government, Members of Parliament would not indulge in personalities, but would talk business.

A Friend in Need.

The Government ought not to overlook Mr. Handel Booth, M.P., when next distributing political honours. On more than one occasion he has come to the rescue by talking a House in, when there was a danger of a snap division. Except on Friday afternoons, he is always to be relied on. But he is a free-lance on that one day only—and then it doesn't matter.

A Delightful Constituency.

On this occasion, our hon. friend evidently spoke under great emotion. "Mr. Speaker, Sir," he said, in his excitement, "the honourable and learned Member for Cripps—" And probably he wasn't far out, after all. The hon. Member for Himself is by no means a *rara avis* in the House of Commons.

On Dit—

That about five years ago a Naval officer was sent out from England to report upon some gunnery trials taking place in the Mediterranean, and that when they were over he proceeded to the flagship to present his report—to find the commanding officer too drunk to receive him!

The Week's Chestnut.

A Lancashire M.P. offered a silver cup to the first woman in his constituency qualifying for the maternity benefit. The cup was won by the wife of a miner, and on its arrival evoked much admiration. "Well," asked the man, "is this our very own, or have we to win it three times?"

RHYMES OF THE TIMES.

[*"To ring a door bell and then run away is not a joke, because to answer a bell when it is rung is a natural and proper practice with no individual absurdity in it."*—TIMES.]

If you go and ring a door bell—
Someone else's bell, not your bell—
And if, after having rung it, you are fleet
To depart before the maiden
(With a face all laughter-laden
Or a visage dark and scowling) drags her feet

To the door in answer to you,
Do not let the thought rush through you
That you've played your little joke; for, says "The Times,"
There is nothing funny in it,
Since the servant any minute
May be called upon to heed the door bell's chimes.

You may think that you are joking,
As with laughter you are choking,
Whilst you watch the little game from o'er the way!
But "The Times" says it's no joke, sir,
And it hints that you're a moke, sir,
If you pull your neighbour's bell and do not stay!

Therefore, when you next are minded
To be funny, don't be blinded
To the solemn truth that where the joke appears
Is in waiting till Maria,
After stirring up the fire,
Opes the door and slaps you soundly on the ears!

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["*Taking the Biscuit*" *has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

For advertising in "The Devon Evening Express": "3,000 *Dogs Wanted, by the Professor. They will be* KINDLY *and carefully treated.* SKINS RETURNED *if required,*"
"PROFESSOR" (66, Summerland Street, Exeter)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For describing one of the characters in his story, "The Message," published in "Cassell's Magazine of Fiction," as "drawing his THIN CHIN ACROSS HIS TEETH *in the cruellest of smiles,"*
"PLANTER CHASE"
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For describing Mr. Llewellyn Williams as "a little CLEAN-SHAVEN *legal gentleman, with a* BIG BEARD *and pale, mobile features,"*
THE LIVERPOOL COURIER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "Thirty hens on a Bickleigh, Devonshire, farm let out for their daily run were killed and carried off within a short period by one fox. They were ATTENDED TO AT WEST HAM HOSPITAL,"
THE PRESTON GUARDIAN
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its account of the wreck of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company's vessel, "Oravia," that: "The wireless apparatus proved the salvation of those on board, for in response to the distress five whaleboats arrived THREE YEARS *after the ship struck,"*
THE BARBADOS STANDARD (Bridgetown)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "At seven o'clock to-night (unless the IMPOSSIBLE *should intervene) war will be resumed between the Balkan Allies and Turkey,"*
THE STAR
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating of the opal that: "The idea was set up that it was unlucky, except to people LIVING IN OCTOBER, *whose birthday stone it is,"*
THE WEEKLY DISPATCH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its report of the rescue of the crew of the "Carrie A. Winslow," off Hatteras, by sailors, that the boat from the steamer "Syndic" was "CRUSHED TO PULP . . . *but it* MANAGED TO REACH THE HELPLESS SCHOONER,"
THE EVENING GAZETTE (Aberdeen)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its report of a social function attended by the football team connected with the South Wales Training College, Carmarthen, that: "A HEARTY RECEPTION *was awarded the visitors by their hosts when* THE TIME FOR PARTING ARRIVED,"
THE WELSHMAN
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

HALF-A-CROWN FOR EVERY "BISCUIT" PUBLISHED.

We give 2s. 6d. *to the sender of every "Biscuit" published. Should the same "Biscuit" be forwarded by several competitors, preference will be given to the one whose letter is first opened. In forwarding newspaper cuttings, sufficient must be sent to identify the name of the paper and date of issue. Envelopes must be marked* "BISCUIT" *and addressed to "The Biscuit Editor."*

Our Great Football Pension prize is GUARANTEED AT LLOYDS.

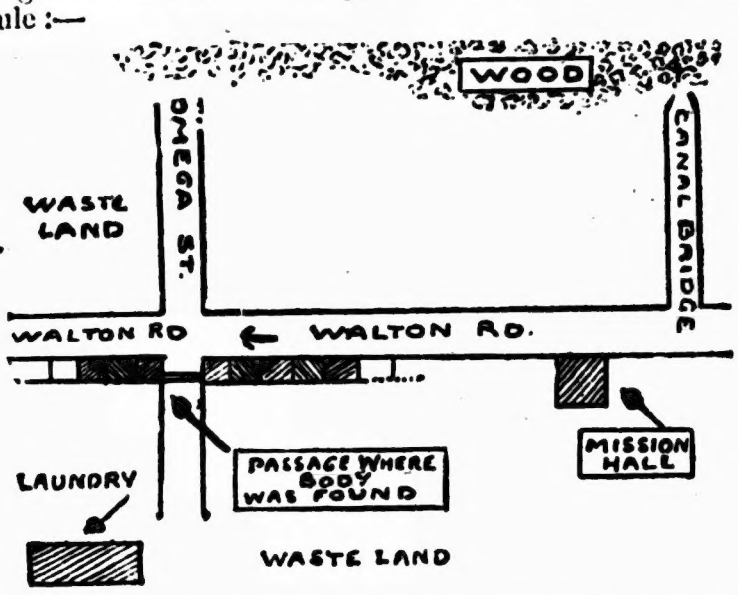
WHO MURDERED THE GIRL SCOUT?

£100 REWARD.

[The distracted parents of the slain girl, Winnie Baker, appeal to us to bring to justice the vile creature who outraged and murdered their child.]

A few days before Christmas, little Winifred Baker, aged 12 years, a member of the Woking Nightingale Girl Scouts, was brutally outraged and murdered. The fiend who committed this foul deed is still at large, and in a letter full of pathos the father of the little victim appeals to us to try and succeed where the police have failed. Such an application we cannot ignore, big as the task is.

Here is a rough sketch of the vicinity in which the outraged body of the child was found, the approximate length of the Walton Road portion being a quarter of a mile :—



Winnie Baker was a fine healthy child, 12 years of age, and weighed about 84 lbs. On the night of November 28th she attended, with other girls, a Scouts' drill class at the Mission Hall marked in the above sketch. She left the Hall soon after 7 o'clock in the company of other girls, and proceeded on her way home to Goldsworth Road—a distance of fully a mile up Walton Road, in the direction of the arrow. Not far from the Mission Hall the children were overtaken by a man, who touched one of them on the shoulder and said, "Your temperance teacher wants to see you." The girl first addressed hesitated, whereupon Winnie volunteered to accompany the man back to the Mission Hall. The children waited some time for Winnie to return. As she did not do so, they retraced their footsteps. The caretaker of the Hall told the children that Winnie had not been back, after which the youngsters seem to have at once made their way along the Walton Road home, and on their way they met a policeman, to whom they told the story of Winnie going away with a strange man. They then made all haste and told the child's father. He at once, with other neighbours, commenced a search which lasted all night.

Finding the Body.

The dead body of the child was first discovered on the morning of November 29th at five minutes past seven. Walking along the Walton Road a man saw something lying inside the gate in the position marked by an arrow, and found it was the body of a child. At this moment a man named Lamdin, who lived in the house immediately on the west of the gate, came out of doors. His attention was at once drawn to the discovery. While one of the men remained with the corpse, the other went for the doctor and police.

Doctor Describes Position of Body.

Dr. B. H. Kingsford states that he found the body of the child in a passage between 201 and 203, Walton Road. *The boots were on the feet, but her heels did not reach down to the soles of the boots. The boots were not laced up, but the laces twisted round them and then tied. The clothes were dry* and the jacket open in front, with a mud-stain on the lower part. There was a scarf doubled and tied tightly round the neck with a single knot.

We draw attention to the particulars in italics. *Evidence of the police went to show that there was rain on the night previous to the body being found, as there was also in the early morning.*

What Have the Police Done Since the Murder?

We can best answer by stating what the police *have not* done. They have not found the murderer. They have other business to attend to—such as trapping motorists, and dodging round street corners in order to get a conviction against a bookmaker's tout. We have nothing to say against the uniformed and subordinate policeman. He has to obey orders. What we should like to know is why detectives from New Scotland Yard were not called in by the County Police. In our own minds we know quite well. Jealousy! No wonder the inhabitants of Woking are indignant. Mr. Macmaster, the member of Parliament for the constituency, has to our knowledge done everything in his power to move the Home Secretary in the matter, to be informed that—

> The Chief Constable has not considered it necessary to ask for the aid of a detective from Scotland Yard. He consulted me as to the offer of a reward for information leading to the apprehension of the culprit, but the invariable practice of the Home Office for many years has been against the offer of rewards for information in cases of this description.

We need hardly say that we do not agree with the Home Secretary. *We* have, therefore, decided to offer

£100 REWARD.

to anybody who can supply us with evidence which will lead to the conviction of the person who murdered Winnie Baker. Our representative has been over all the ground in the vicinity in which the body was found, and has formed a definite opinion that the child was murdered in some building near and then carried out and laid in the position in which the body was discovered.

Instructions to Correspondents.

We particularly ask those contemplating writing us upon this subject *not to trouble us with theories.* What we want is *evidence.* In offering a reward we do not mean to suggest for a moment that we expect to get a reply from any person who actually saw the crime committed. Such a person would be as bad as the murderer himself. What we do, however, expect to get is some clue that will lead us to track the beast down.

Every communication will be dealt with in a strictly confidential manner.

Our Theory.

It will be understood, as we have already indicated, that in a matter of this gravity it is incumbent upon us to move, and speak, with the utmost caution. We should, however, be false to our readers if we did not tell them that we have formed a very definite theory as to the crime; and if subsequent events should justify our view, some of the words we have written above will be found to bear a very damning significance. We *think we shall lay the murderer by the heels.*

MARRIED IN HASTE.

A WARNING TO BRITISH GIRLS.

We give publicity to the following case, in the hope that it will act as a warning to parents and young girls, and also that it may be the means of finding some employment for the victim.

In 1911 there resided in the South-West of London a widow and her daughter aged 18 years. The mother possessed small means and managed to make both ends meet by letting apartments. Two of the lodgers were father and son—at least, so they described themselves. They were dealers in antiques and were of Russian origin. As time went on, the younger lodger made love to the daughter, and after knowing each other some seven months the couple were married, with the mother's consent. No sooner had the ceremony taken place than the new husband and his father proposed that they should return to their native land. The honeymoon was spent on the Continent. In Paris the girl-wife was introduced to a very questionable flat, but managed to retain her self-respect. From the Gay City the newly-wedded couple went to Geneva, where a passport for Russia was obtained. We need not dwell on the long train journey, but once on Russian soil it soon became obvious to the girl for what purpose she was required. She was introduced to apartments occupied by girls of easy virtue, and when she drew her husband's attention to this he only laughed. She was even asked to share a bedroom with a man other than her husband. She indignantly refused. In the end, she wired to her mother, who got in touch with the British Consul at Kieff. Luckily for the girl, she had hidden away in her bosom a ten-pound note given to her by her mother before leaving home. By the assistance of the British Consul the girl eventually arrived back quite safe. There is now a child of the marriage. The young mother is a healthy woman and is very anxious to obtain some employment by which she can support herself and the infant.

BUMBLE AGAIN!

WESTMINSTER GUARDIANS' POUND OF FLESH.

The ratepayers of Westminster are to be congratulated upon having officials who look after their interests! Eighteen years ago a native of Westminster enlisted. While in the Service he had the audacity to take unto himself a wife. In due course four children arrived, who lived with their mother at Bedford, while the man served His Majesty at Devonport. Some short time ago wife and children were overjoyed to see daddy come marching home. No doubt the youngsters appreciated it all the more because father was accompanied by an escort. With the mother, however, it was different, for she soon learnt from the N.C.O. in charge of her husband that he had been discharged on a pension of 9s. 11d. a week, owing to insanity. The poor fellow had been back only a few days when the wife and children nearly lost their lives—for the ex-soldier, with a dagger in hand, ran amok. In the nick of time he was got under restraint, and eventually lodged in an asylum, where he is likely to remain for the rest of his life. One would naturally suppose that the fabulous pension would go to his wife. Not so, however; the Westminster Guardians have confiscated the whole of it for the man's maintenance. Talk about encouraging lads to enlist!

THE "TERRIERS'" TERROR.

ARMS AND THE (POLICE) MAN.

A North Shields Territorial, having notified his commanding officer that he could not re-engage on account of domestic affairs and that he would return his equipment on arriving back home, received the following postcard:—

> Please note that your rifle and bayonet sling, clothing and equipment must be returned at once, otherwise your discharge cannot be carried out. If they are not returned by a reasonable period the police will have to be informed.

We feel sure Robert will appreciate the job of collecting arms. Much more congenial than looking after murderers, or burglars!

LAUGH AND GROW LEAN.

FAT PROFITS AND QUICK RETURNS.

A Welsh lady reader sends us a budget of pamphlets and imitation letters received from Winifred Grace Hartland, "Specialist in Fat Reduction," of 62, Oxford Street, London, W. In a gushing circular intended to be regarded as a private communication, Winifred says: "You can't imagine how delightful it is to see ungainly fat leaving, by use of my delightful treatment." (She seems very proud of the tautology, for it is repeated later on.) In the accompanying pamphlet, one of the most telling headlines is: "I was forced to perfect this treatment or give up my profession"—the precise avocation in life honoured by the gifted lady not being specified. We think, however, that we have seen her described—by herself, in another advertisement made to look like an editorial article—as a prominent authoress, who has set all the circulating libraries on fire. At any rate, we can well credit that she is a very capable writer of fiction, and readily concede her claim to "slimness." The conclusion of the imitation letter puts the coping stone on the structure of bunkum by stating that:

> As you are one of the first in your vicinity to write me, I am therefore anxious that you should reduce yourself with my treatment, knowing that when your fat is gone, I will add another life-long friend and one who will gladly recommend me to others. I am therefore reducing my price to you to £1 for the entire complete combination treatment, providing you will recommend it to your friends when you have reduced your form to beautiful proportions with it. It is, however, understood that when recommending me you must keep my special offer strictly confidential, as my full price is £2. BE SURE TO RETURN THE ENCLOSED COUPON No. 436 WITH YOUR ORDER, SO THAT MY SECRETARY WILL KNOW I MADE YOU THE £1 PRICE, IN CASE I SHOULD NOT BE IN WHEN YOUR ORDER COMES.

Our unsophisticated correspondent has been led to doubt the first statement—she apparently accepts the others without difficulty,—because a personal friend of hers living in her neighbourhood has been offered the same bait!

Can any reader tell us whether such a person as Winifred Grace Hartland actually exists? Our information is that,—if she is indeed in corporeal being—she is a mere dummy, whose strings are pulled by two transatlantic adventurers, who should certainly be deported without delay, as undesirable aliens. It is certain that the only sure result of the Welsh lady attempting to reduce her form at the reduced price would be the reduction of her banking account. She should certainly laugh at Winifred Grace, and grow lean by natural methods.

THERE'S HAIR!

CONVICT SNIP FOR SOLDIERS.

A new order has recently been issued to the 2nd Battalion of the Border Regiment, now at Pembroke Dock, to the effect that all the men must pay twopence monthly for haircutting. A clause says that "the hair is to be cut from the forehead to the base of the head with a pair of clippers." The King's Regulations, however, contradict this, by stating that the hair should be one inch long in front, and the rest correspondingly trimmed. Here is an instance of the trouble created by the new ukase. A day or two ago a squad of recruits were paraded for the purpose of selecting the efficient duty-men. There were three who came fully within this category, and would have been duly passed, but the officer noticed that their hair was not cut in the new fashion—so the trio were returned to the drill stage for another three months! This puts the men back into the same position as when they enlisted, even though they were passed as efficient. It is also mentioned in the recent order that an officer can command a man to uncover his head for inspection, and if the thatch disclosed be not to his liking, poor Tommy is liable to seven days' "defaulters." Think of a soldier going home on furlough with his head like a convict! Instead of sailing for Table Bay, he will be "sung" by Mr. Kipling as hailing from Botany.

"Bullets" Prizes to the Value of £1,705 to be Divided this Week.

NO LICENCE, BUT MUCH LIBERTY.

ARTFUL AUCTIONEERS AND PREVARICATING PAWNBROKERS.

A travelling auctioneer, of 20 years' standing, appeals to us to continue our efforts for the purging of his calling of the conductors of mock auctions. We can quite understand that these rascals are ruining the business and making it hard for a straight man to get a living. Our correspondent agrees with us that the authorities should no longer issue licences to these scamps. One can be obtained in any town and at any time by paying £10, but many stringent regulations must be complied with before the issue of a £2 hawker's licence—such as procuring the signature of a J.P. or Chief of Police. Our friend, because he conducts his business in a legitimate way, is compelled to take out both licences, but the tricksters in many cases do not even pay the £10—they would, of course, never get a hawker's licence on account of their characters. They evade the law and at the same time facilitate their frauds by describing themselves as "advertising agents," a further device being to change constantly the man in the rostrum—in some cases as many as ten or a dozen individuals popping up and down like jacks-in-the-box. One method of putting down the swindle would be by means of prosecutions for obtaining money by false pretences. In Blackpool the magistrates found no difficulty in convicting, a rascal brought before them getting eighteen months'.

Somewhat analogous to these "ramps" is the trick which has been so long played by Davis and Co., "Licensed Pawnbrokers and Furriers," 284, Brixton Road, and D. S. Emanuel, 332, Kennington Park Road, who offer goods under grossly misleading descriptions. For instance, the first cunningly advertises :—

> GENT'S £2 2s. Massive Double Albert, 18-carat gold (stamped) filled, solid links; curb pattern; great bargain, 10s. 6d.

there being, of course, a mere film of gold, while the trashy article is quite new and worth in reality much less than the advertised price. Emanuel—who has recently christened (if such a word is allowable in his case) himself a "Bankruptcy Association"—announces the same kind of goods. Here are a couple of his "bargains" :—

> GENT'S Keyless heavy 18-carat gold-cased Lever Demi-hunting Watch. Chronometer Balance, accurate time-keeper, 10 years' warranty; also 18-ct. gold-cased, Double Curb Albert, Grecian head seal attached; together 10s. 6d.

It would, therefore, be advisable that the authorities should without delay direct their attention to the misuse of the pawnbroker's licence and that the Assay officials should put down such gross and deliberate misrepresentation as is contained in the phrase, "18-carat gold-cased" when applied to watches—the word "cased" certainly implying that it is the watch cases which are of 18-carat gold, and not that the goods are actually of base metal merely faced with a microscopically thin deposit of gold.

THE LATE MR. VAN BIENE.

TOUCHING LETTER FROM HIS DAUGHTER.

Apropos of our reference to the sad death of Mr. Auguste Van Biene, we received the following pathetic letter from his daughter :—

> 20, Howitt Road,
> Haverstock Hill,
> London, N.W.
> February 7th, 1913.
>
> DEAR SIR,—I feel that I want to thank you for the little paragraph in your paper this week about my dear father (Auguste Van Biene). Of all the thousands of things which we have read about him, certainly yours is the most terse, and at the same time really *beautiful*; it brought tears to my eyes and also a little comfort to my sad heart; so I beg to remain in gratitude, yours most truly,
>
> EVA STROMBERG.
>
> (*Nee* Van Biene, *only* daughter of Auguste Van Biene.)

LIGHT WANTED AT THE GASWORKS.

A LAND DEAL IN THE COUNTY OF MANY ACRES.

The Wombwell (Yorks.) District Council seem to be taking up a peculiar attitude in respect of the circumstances in which Mr. John Robinson, one of their members, purchased land in the town required, or partially required, by the Council for gasworks. There is, apparently, a regrettable tendency to keep in the dark matters which ought to be brought to light. Those concerned should remember that to hide them, or befog them, is not to allay public suspicion, but to excite it. These transactions may have been perfectly fair, square, and above board, but if it is a mere coincidence that Mr. Robinson entered into negotiations, and eventually signed a contract for the purchase of the land, without being at the time aware the Council would need it for gasworks, that is certainly not an adequate reason for obfuscating the public mind. At the last meeting, the inquiries of Mr. Allott were quite justified and quite proper, and the Chairman's remarks on the subject of dirty linen were in no way a reply to them. What he wished to know, and what apparently the Chairman and the rest of the Council were determined that neither he nor the public should know, was, first, is this land to be transferred to the Council unfettered, unconditionally and on the same terms as Mr. Robinson received it from the owner? and, secondly, if not, what are the conditions on which the Council are to come into its possession, through the member in question? It is to be public land, purchased with public money, for the public interest. What, then, stands in the way of a plain, unequivocal answer to the questions which Mr. Allott asked? And why all this mystification about the proceedings of the deputation of the members of the Council to Mr. Robinson? Why have they not reported? The Chairman stated that the Committee did actually meet, but it was not really a committee meeting. "No minutes were taken. Whatever was said, was said practically off the top. If there was anything said which could be put before the Council we should have done so. We did not intend taking any minutes and none were taken." That is the answer given to Mr. Allott. We doubt whether anyone outside the Council will consider it satisfactory. The ratepayers—rightly—demand to know who or what is being shielded, for what reason, and with what object. It is, indeed, time that the whole business were brought into the light, so that they can judge of what is or has been afoot. If there is further evidence of intention to befool or befog them, or to treat with light-hearted contempt and indifference their interests in this business, then our strong advice to them is to organise a town's meeting and formulate an insistent demand for full, complete and candid explanations.

ANOTHER CHANCE FOR SIR PERCY SCOTT!

HOW HE CAN WIN THE MODERN ACTIUM.

We have received from a man describing himself as "an ex-seaman gunner of the Navy," a letter bearing his full name and address and stating that, having read in JOHN BULL of Gunner Parrott being sentenced to four years' imprisonment for having sold naval secrets (the tar must be like a certain famous statesman in declining to read the daily Press), he wonders what the Admiralty would give him for *his*. He asserts that he could take England's secret Navy signals and sell them to Germany, or he could take Germany's signals and sell them to England, or could transact a similar little bit of business with any other country. He patriotically gives Mr. Churchill the first chance, all he asks being that he should receive enough money to take a small farm—if this is felt to be too little, leaving to the honour of the First Lord the question of any additional offering from a grateful country. He asks us to "forward this letter to the wright party" or to tell him "were to right to." And our ingenuous correspondent had been in the Royal Navy, too! We think he would do well to approach Sir Percy Scott, who might entertain the idea of a little deal. Bill Adams and Waterloo will then have to take a back seat.

Your Football Skill may make You Independent for Life. See page 249.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

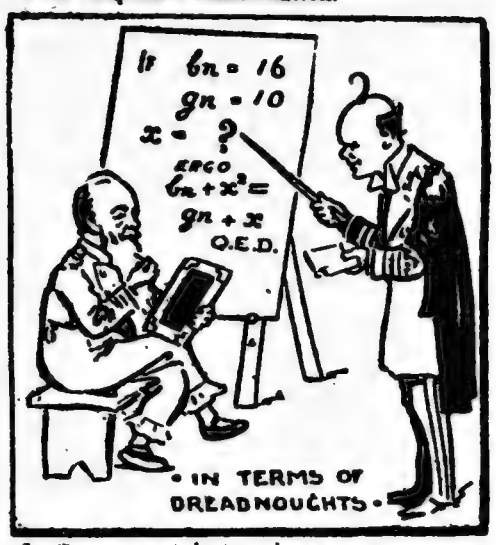
BULL-DOGGEREL RHYMES BY "THE BOW-WOW."

To watch the Russian dancers twirl
The light fantastic toe,
With Thomas Beecham (famous name!)
Conducting from below,
To Covent Garden eagerly
The British public flocks—
And all agree that what they see
Is worth a quid a box!

To fix their next Election cry
The Government desire,
By means of which to victory
They once again aspire;
Lloyd George declares it must be "Land!"
Lord Haldane—"Education!"—
It's easy now to understand
Poor Asquith's consternation.

The Monarch of His Majesty's,
To wit, the mighty Tree,
To Russia takes a week-end trip
To see—what he can see.
He tells the *Daily Mail* the tale
Of his adventures there—
Now to be called Beerbohmovitch
Treeski let him prepare!

A bit of a high-flyer we
Alfonso long have thought,
So we were not surprised to see
The recent press report:
For half-an-hour he was a high
If not a mighty King;
So now, should he be *forced* to fly
He'll do it on the wing.



Is Germany at last to learn
That Britain, on the sea,
From her great purpose ne'er will turn,
Which is—"Supremacy!"?
Or is the Teuton short of cash
And wants a breathing space
Before he makes another dash
To win the naval race?

It is a pleasant thing to see
A "bobby" on his beat,
His form, instinct with dignity,
On firm, unflinching feet;
But plump West Sussex constables
Are now in dire disgrace,
Because their chief thinks they should be
As "slim" as them they chase!

BLYTH BIGOTS.

CANT *versus* CHARITY.

At the present moment Blyth-by-Sea is perturbed and indignant at the vagaries of its Licensing Bench. For some time the decisions of the magistrates have added to the town's stock of amusement, but there is a limit to even funny things, and northcountry people are of the opinion that in this case it has not only been reached, but exceeded.

During the tremendous gale of last month the s.s. *Dunelm* drove ashore in a most dangerous position, and began to break up rapidly. Some desperate work was put in by the Volunteer Life Saving Brigade, in the course of which one of the rescuers, a man named Hurrell lost his life. The circular before us says:—

> The circumstances are well-known, and one cannot repress a thrill of admiration as one hears of one example after another of splendid heroism and endurance by those who effected the rescue.
>
> Hurrell was one of the first on the rocks near the wreck, and assisted through all the rescue operations. As is generally known, the tide had risen so quickly in the meantime that a boat had to be used to convey the last of the rocket brigademen and others from the rocks to the shore, and in attempting to swim from a submerged rock to the boat, Hurrell was swept away and drowned.

Mrs. Hurrell is left with five children. Her husband was only a labourer, and the family is practically destitute. Immediately the facts were known, an influential committee set on foot a Relief Fund. By way of contribution, all the cinema hall proprietors promised to give a performance in aid of the widow and children. The proprietor of the Theatre Royal, with this object, applied to the magistrates for permission to have a Sunday evening sacred concert. Not only was he refused, but in addition had to listen to a lecture.

Charity evidently does not concern this Bench, even though Pope said, "In faith and hope the world will disagree, but all mankind's concern is charity." And, by the way, are there not some curious distinctions made in Blyth-by-Sea? The Sunday previous to the application being made, a revivalist was in full blast at another picture hall in the place, saving souls by aid of what some uncharitable people have described as "discordant discords and yowls." If the revivalist was permitted to disturb the peace of the neighbourhood, to have music and song in a picture palace, why not the theatre-owner, prepared to work and give, to help the helpless? Perhaps the revivalist was secure in the protection of one of the town's big men, for it is rumoured that such an one was taking part in the proceedings. In any case, the situation is coming to a head beautifully and rapidly. The proprietor of the hall which harboured the revivalist has issued tickets and intends holding a Sunday show for the Hurrell Fund—and without permission of the Bench. If he is summoned his defence ought to be worth hearing. Anyway, it will be the best possible advertisement for him and the Fund. Good luck to them both!

The Huge Sum of £400 for the Best "Bullet" this week. See page 254.

DISAPPOINTED ANGELS.

ERRANT PARSON PREFERS AUSTRALIA TO HEAVEN.

By Hartley Parr.

So the Great Cliff Mystery turns out no mystery at all—just a vulgar intrigue, without even the charm of novelty. For the Cliff Accident wheeze had been exploited previously by Miss Violet Charlesworth.

The story will be familiar. How the Reverend Albert Knight, Vicar of Christ Church, Leeds, went for a walk with his wife in a thick fog with the idea of taking photographs of Flamborough Head. How the lady reported that she had seen her husband fall over the edge of the cliff. How a Memorial Service was held, at which a Bishop spoke of the supposed deceased in terms that would hardly have been too fulsome if applied to St. Francis of Assisi.

All this is well enough known, as is now the fact that this Christian priest is still alive, that his alleged mishap was a cruel lie, and that he is on his way to the Antipodes in company with a young lady. This ingenuous maiden had co-operated, aptly enough, with Mr. Knight in a crusade against the White Slave Traffic. Whether their combined flight was dictated solely by the wish to obtain first-hand information, only themselves can say.

The two had also studied poultry-farming together.

A Miracle of Faith.

A remarkable feature of the case was the manner in which Mr. Knight's relatives and his Church colleagues apparently swallowed the accident story without salt. This in spite of the fact, now manifest, that for many months the parson's easy way with the fair sex had given cause for comment. There seems to have been a complete willingness to hush the matter up.

Mrs. Knight has admitted that her account of the fall from the cliff was a fabrication. A churchwarden has said: "I told my wife a twelvemonth ago that things were getting to such a pitch that something was bound to happen before long. It is a matter of common knowledge that all was not right."

Just why this gentleman did not protest against the holding of a service in memory of a living man, is not quite clear. A lady friend of Mr. Knight's companion knew all along of the prospective elopement, yet she too made no sign until the guilty couple were well out of the country.

But the one person who let himself go regardless of expense was the Curate, the Reverend H. J. Cobbett, who in the February issue of the *Parish Magazine* wrote:—

> . . . One could never have had a better Vicar, for he lived the life of a true Christian gentleman and in every way set forth the ideal character of the Christian Minister.
>
> Our dear Vicar has left us an example. His life was beautiful, and a few years of such service as he gave Christ are worth a hundred years of humdrum toil. We need the inspiration of such a life as his. Heaven, too, is the richer for such a man and such a life. "Angels and men gave him glad welcome," and what a smile would light up the Saviour's face as He received His faithful servant home.

This sort of thing would strike most people as being in rather bad taste, even if Mr. Knight had been as good as they said he was; but, considering all the facts of the case, the account of the celestial reception is more than regrettable. Blasphemous is the only word which can fitly be employed.

Excusing and Accusing.

One can have nothing but sympathy for the relatives of the erring priest. At the same time, I question whether they are wise to emphasise the suggestions of mental trouble that have been circulated. A medical man and the Vicar of Leeds have referred to a motor accident in which Mr. Knight received serious injuries to his head. That such a misadventure might account for mental aberration, I would not deny. But this hardly clears the Church authorities from the charge of negligence. Surely mental disturbance sufficient to make a chaste man into a beast would also unfit him to carry out his duties as a clergyman.

We can only hope that "Mr. Herbert King" will begin in Australia a cleaner and better life than that of the Reverend Albert Knight.

THE TRAFFICKERS.

AN INCIDENT FROM LIFE.

By Cynicus.

The morning express with its load of business men sped swiftly Citywards. The prosperous-looking gentleman with the double chin put down his paper and launched a tentative remark.

"That's the way to stamp out this White Slave Traffic. Flog the brutes," he said.

"You're about right there, sir," said the little man in the corner. And there was a general murmur of assent.

"I see by the paper there are two more of them sentenced to be flogged," went on the double-chinned gentleman. "And a good thing, too. This sentimental slobber about flogging brutalising them is utter rubbish."

"Lot of tosh, what?" said a spotty-faced young man.

"Tosh," said the prosperous gentleman, swelling with virtuous indignation, "I should think it is tosh. It's impossible to brutalise such people; they're brutalised already. Fear of the lash is the only thing that appeals to such brute natures. Let them think their precious skins are in danger and they'll soon clear out."

"You're about right there, sir." said the little man, with the air of one who repeats a good thing.

The conversation languished. The double-chinned gentleman, looking out of the window, was thinking about his factory. Confound those girls! Did they think he was made of money? Twelve shillings a week they were getting and they wanted fourteen. Monstrous! And they talked about the "increased cost of living." As if he could help that; hasn't it increased for him, too?

The spotty-faced young man had also fallen into a reverie, but on pleasanter things. He was thinking of the large, languid barmaid at the "Golden Fleece," and what a lucky mortal he was to be taking her out to-night.

The little man in the corner was idly tearing up an empty matchbox, which along with ninety-nine others had been made for twopence farthing by a woman in the East End.

WILSON'S TRUST.

MAKING SURETY DOUBLY SURE.

What is known as Wilson's Trust is one of the old City charities for assisting young men starting in business. Sums of £100 to £200 are advanced, but those who imagine that it is easily obtained had better pause. First, the applicant must find someone to introduce him to the trustees, then four guarantors are required, who have to make themselves liable to repay the amount in five years. Then another quartet must vouch for the guarantors. The trustees evidently believe in the Hebrew proverb that "Your surety wants a surety."

"PITY THE POOR EDITOR!"

ANOTHER GEM FRCM OUR LETTER BAG.

A Portsmouth reader complains that he cannot get the following questions answered by headquarters of Baden-Powell's Scouts, and asks us to *demand* a speedy reply:—

> Are troops self-supporting? Do boys have to buy their own uniforms? If not, who supplies them? Do scout-masters receive pay? Where are uniforms, etc., obtained? Who pays for camps? What is a "local association"? Can anyone attend a meeting of a local association? Will headquarters assist any scout-master by granting him money to carry on a troop? Will headquarters assist a troop to go to camp? What salary is paid to the Secretary at headquarters? (if he receives one). Did the *Daily Telegraph* or any other paper raise money some time back for the Boy Scout movement? If so, what became of the money? Did any troop derive any benefit by it? If not, why not? Should the public assist headquarters in any way? If a complaint is sent to headquarters, or to the leader of the movement, will it be looked into, or is it left to some junior officers to settle the bother? When officers travel about the country and around the world inspecting troops, who pays expenses? Do headquarters issue a balance-sheet each year? What is the use of headquarters at all?

Two distinct Prizes for Football Skill, £6 a Week for Life and £600 Cash. See page 249.

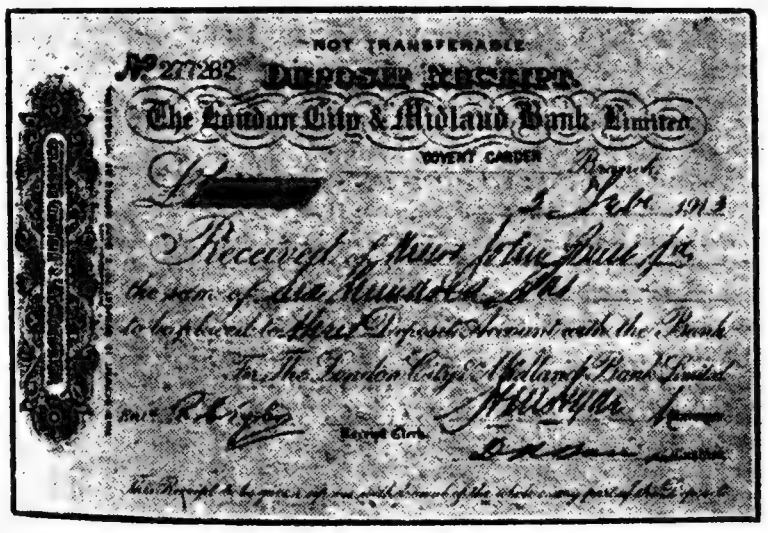
£6 A WEEK FOR LIFE.

GUARANTEED BY A POLICY AT LLOYD'S.

In accordance with its custom of taking the lead in any journalistic field it enters, JOHN BULL fairly staggered the newspaper world last week by its offer of a pension of £6 a week for life, *guaranteed at Lloyd's*, AND (please note, not *or*) £600 for the best prediction of the results of twenty football matches, short of a complete forecast.

But now—the game between Leicester Fosse and Fulham (down for decision on Saturday, March 1st), having been brought forward and already played—our Competition has been made even more simple by the number of matches being reduced to NINETEEN. The Leicester Fosse and Fulham match will, of course, be ignored, and has now been omitted from the coupon.

In other words, whoever correctly foretells the result of the full nineteen matches will receive £6 a week for life, whatever his or her age may be—secured by a policy at Lloyd's, which is accepted throughout the world as equivalent to a guarantee by the Bank of England itself. We need scarcely say that no newspaper and no firm, of whatever eminence, could possibly give such security as this. And let our readers consider what the liability really amounts to. Assuming the winner to be a person of the age of 30 years, and taking the orthodox span of life of three score years and ten, the pension would involve the payment out of upwards of £12,000. In addition to this huge sum, however, whether it is won or not, we have set apart a further £600 as a certain cash prize. And do not let it be thought that the prize cannot be won. We shall be both surprised and disappointed if it is not. However, whether the pension is won or not, someone *must be nearest* to the full result, and he, or she, will receive the £600 which we have deposited with our bankers, whose receipt for the amount we print below.


NOT TRANSFERABLE.

No. 27782 DEPOSIT RECEIPT.

The London City & Midland Bank Limited

COVENT GARDEN Branch.

[redacted] 3 Feb 1913

Received of Messrs John Bull Ltd.

the sum of One Hundred £s

to be placed to their Deposit Account with the Bank

For The London City & Midland Bank Limited

[redacted] Manager

Entered Clerk.

Of course, should more than one reader give the same number of nearest results to the full score the amount will have to be divided.

As regards our first competition of £5 a week for life, with a certain prize of £500, the list closed on Thursday last, and a special staff of 100 selected individuals has been, and is still, engaged in collating and examining the coupons. The expense involved is, of course, a very big item, but we do not in any way object to it. As we have already explained, the whole thing is a huge advertising scheme, designed to bring our journal to the notice of new readers. There is no profit in it for us, las, having regard to the size of JOHN BULL, our sales alone eave practically no margin—in any case, not sufficient to recompense us for the special expenditure involved in this scheme.

We hope shortly to publish special photographic views of our Football and Bullets staffs at work, with a full explanatory article showing the elaborate arrangements we have perfected for the purpose of preventing the faintest possibility of either fraud or unfairness in connection with our competitions—which are run upon such straight Business lines that they have already eclipsed every other journalistic enterprise of a similar character.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CCXXXIII.

[*In this column every week we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.*]

A LITTLE BABY'S BLEAK PROSPECT.

We place before our readers this week the sad plight of a Wandsworth family—father, mother and seven children. The father, a carman, has been out of work through an accident to his leg. He is 36 years of age, has excellent references, and is a sober and hard-working man, but is quite unable to obtain employment—so all they have to live on is the few shillings the eldest boy, 14 years of age, earns as messenger at a fishmonger's. The mother, whose baby was born but four days before our visit, has, of course, been unable to do any work for the last few weeks, and it will, naturally, be some little time before she can get about again. The children's ages are: boys, 14 and 7; girls, 13, 11, 5, 3½ years, respectively, and the baby. It would be a godsend if we could procure permanent work for the father, who is a capable man and used to driving, while they are also desperately in need of pecuniary assistance, as they are three weeks in arrears with the rent, being quite unable to pay anything. They have little clothing and are practically on the verge of starvation. Although so poverty-stricken, what is left of their little home is remarkably clean. We beg our readers' generous assistance, urging them to remember that "He gives twice who gives quickly"—though we do not, of course, suggest that they should on that account halve intended donations!

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:

CCXXIX.—Mrs. E. D., parcel; "Conscience Money," 1s.

CCXXX.—"Don," 6d.

CCXXXI.—"Parson," 2s. 6d.; Mrs. L. K., 1s.; E. J., (Australia), 3s.; "Do Unto Others," 2s.; T. G. J., 5s.; P. H., 2s. 6d.; A. S., 1s.; "Elstow," 1s.; "Interested," 1s.; J. E. K., 6d.; K. G., 2s. 6d.; J. S., 2s.; "Omak," 1s.; "Don," 6d.; "Joe," 6d.; N. O. T., 6d.; "Wray," 2s. 6d.; C. C., 2s. 6d., "Llandudno," 1s.; "Live and Let Live," 1s.; Mrs. H. W.; A. D., A. T., and E. C., parcels; "Kamroopo Can," 3s. 9d.; "May," 6s.; E. A. L. C., 1s.; "Stampite," 1s.; "Mac," 5s.

CCXXXII.—A. T., 5s.; "Another Widow," 1s.; "Carol," £1; "Eric," 1s.; "Sympathiser," £5; "Frenchman," £1; "Ivy Mary," 1s.; A. J. E. S., 4s.; "An Admirer," 10s. 6d.

OUR COLLECTING BOXES.

By the kindness of many of our readers we are enabled to add to our "Human Document" fund by means of collecting boxes, which they are good enough to place on their premises. We shall be glad to hear from others.

LONDON.—Mr. C. Besser, "Black Horse," 19, Tottenham Court Road, 1s. 1d.; Mrs. Bennett, "Coach and Horses," Bruton Street, W., 1s. 3½d.; Mr. W. R. Perry, "Blue Posts," Tottenham Court Road, 1s. 3d.; Mr. F. E. C. Arnett, "Clarendon," 86, Balcorne Street, South Hackney, 1s.; Mr. E. Morgan, "The Blackstock," Morgan's Corner, Finsbury Park, 2s. 6d.; Mr. W. Biden, "Clothworkers' Arms," 52, Arlington Street, New North Road, 1s. 4½d.; Mr. A. Johnson, "Distillers' Arms," 28, Hancock Road, Bromley, 1s. 3½d.; Messrs. Marsden and Co., 108, Bow Road, 1s. 3d.; Mr. A. H. Standbrook, "Old Clay Hall," Old Ford Road, 1s. 3d.; Mr. H. T. Cooper, "The Castle," Grosvenor Rise East, Walthamstow, 1s.; Mr. A. Heep, "Denbigh Arms," 3, Denbigh Place, S.W., 1s. 7d.; "Sympathiser," 6s. 8d.

PLYMOUTH.—Mr. A. Davis, Caprera Athletic Club, 2s. 9½d.

Total £1 4s. 4d., which we have allocated to CCXXXII.

ÉMIGRATING DONE HERE.

Agents or alleged agents of the Western Canadian Grain Growers' Association are looking for farm hands in England. The agents have authority to pay the passage-money, £11, of their victims, and offer £20 a year wages to start with. If there are any fools left in England they had better go. They will probably have to sign on for two or three years and repay the passage-money in the first year of service!

Two distinct Prizes for Football Skill, £6 a Week for Life and £600 Cash. See page 249.

CONFESSIONS OF A VERONAL VICTIM.

By Theodore Dable.

[In the following article our brilliant contributor gives a graphic description of the pitiable fight of a veronal victim against his craving for the deadly drug, in the hope that the censorious may be induced to charity.]

He had burned the candle at both ends. The fever of the political game had got into his blood. The ambition to win through it, and win through fast, raged in his veins as a consuming fire. All day in the Courts; long hours in Parliament when the Courts were closed; long hours in his study gathering up the strands of his cases for the next day, when the great light in the Clock Tower blinked out. For five years that had been his life, and nature was now exacting the price.

To-night, reading the brief before him, his eyes seemed to dart tongues of flame as they ran along the lines. The individual letters danced madly under his gaze, jostling each other as they danced. Yet he worked on, oblivious of time—oblivious of the world. Presently he glanced at the clock ticking on the mantelpiece. Then across the great city, sleepless like himself, came the boom of Big Ben. It seemed thunderous now, that single beat. One o'clock, the end of the first hour of another day. Still he worked on. Big Ben boomed the second hour, and then the third.

He went to the window of his study and looked out upon the black masses of the trees beyond, to see them silver-gleaming for an instant as the moon swung out like a great arc-lamp from the ebon dome of the world. The hum of the city had gone out of the air; it was as if a clock which had been beating all the day, unnoticed, had suddenly stopped. So silent was everything now that he could hear the trees softly rustled by the breath of the morning. This day had been as yesterday; as the day before; as many days before that—a long succession of hours without sleep. He left the window, and raised his hand to the tap of the gas bracket. An instant he paused; wondering, indecisive.

Fighting the Good Fight.

In body and mind he was weary for sleep. Would nature grant him a little of her bounty in mercy to-night? His need for sleep stressed him as an affliction. It was the craving of his anxieties. The cry for it came out of his soul. But was it worth while to fight this monster Night again, he asked himself—to fight again only to fail again? His teeth gritted together. His mouth set hard. He would fight. He turned down the lights and went to his room, undressing rapidly in the dark, lest his mind and body's demand should affright him ere he got into bed; trying to hold his mind blank lest a flying thought should fashion out of his brain a scourge. At last he was in bed.

A street lamp threw shafts of light through the lattices of the window blinds. He shut his eyes, drawing the bedclothes over his face, trying not to think. So he lay awhile, tightening his eyelids, resolutely trying to shut out thoughts of days past, and days present, and days to come. Presently he was turning from side to side, and from back to breast. Wherever he turned, he had the sensation of numbing a limb, or crushing one. He dashed the bedclothes from his face, and lay with his arms under his head. He could not strangle thought; it would come. His heart thumped nervously. The quick thuds of it made him turn again. Still he heard it. He crushed down the wild beat of it with his arms till its strokes became stabs of pain.

Hard Pressed.

Till now he had locked his eyes. He opened them. The white lace curtains hanging at the windows were luminous in the glow of the street lamp. He began to count the lattices of the blinds, and mused on the play of light and shadow on the walls. Then he closed his eyes again and lay rigid, telling himself that he would not move a muscle; keeping his word until he felt as if he were stretched on a rack, until his rigidity became a torture. He glared upward, wide-staring, starting up and resting on an elbow. The lamp outside had begun to project a picture of the curtains and lattices on the ceiling. He started to compare the distorted patterns of the shadowed curtain-flowers with those of the real curtains, trying to identify them each in turn.

Wearying of this mental task, he lay back on his pillow again, and stared at the mirror in the wardrobe. His wakefulness was now almost an agony. His mind awakened dread out of every trembling shadow. His ears were sharpened to every sound. The ticking of the clock in the room maddened him; it was like the echoing beats of the swinging lead in him. He jumped out of bed and stopped the clock with rough, nervous hands. Still he could not sleep. He pressed his fingers into his ears as he heard the rumble of far distant trains. The momentary rattle of the window frame sent the blood coursing through his veins as a slow stream of ice-cold water. He started at the fall of a few grains of displaced soot down the chimney. A creak of springing woodwork set him staring round the room.

Weakening Resistance.

Again the boom came across the city, thunderous, resonant. Five o'clock. A few moments later he heard footsteps, heavy, rapid. They came nearer and nearer; clicking on the smooth pavement; a workman was speeding to his daily toil. Again he got out of bed, peering through the lattices. The footsteps ceased as he did so; the lamp ratfled an instant; the light was extinguished; the shadows suddenly ceased to lurk in the corner of the room and flicker on the walls. The footsteps resounded heavily on the pavement again, grew fainter and fainter, till the street was once more silent. He peered through the lattices until the pale morning, flushing here and there over the housetops, greeted his weary, sleepless eyes. With heaving heart he turned from the window, a hand pressed hard against his brow. He must sleep; sleep or go mad. He could not work longer without it. If sleep would not be wooed, it must be willed.

With pallid face and quivering lips and trembling frame he opened a drawer in the dressing-table and drew from it a little box. A dozen cachets of veronal lay snugly against each other in it. He shook one out into the palm of his hand, then another and another and another. Should he take them? Should he? He asked himself the question again and again. He had fought his enemy through the long night with all his strength, and he had fallen—fallen as for many nights before. But never would he drug till he was beaten. Was he beaten now? Could he fight it out another hour, downed as he was? He looked into the mirror. The sight of his face ivory-white, deep-lined, resolved him. A cry of pain, uttered out of his weakness, was stifled by firm-set lips ere it became a moan. He stood glaring at his face in the mirror. The veronal cachets were still in his palm. They were kindly things in their way, but he had begun to be almost as much afraid of them as of the sleep they would bring. It had been one cachet at first, then two, then three—"God in heaven," he muttered, as the sweat broke on his forehead, "how will it, how can it end, except in the sleep from which there will one day be no waking?" Time and time again he had said he would fight the night alone; fight it with his own weary body and tortured brain for his natural sleep; fight it till it was no longer possible he could remain awake; and yet, once again—.

The Great Surrender.

He nervously dissolved the cachets in some wine, and drank; then he returned to bed.

For awhile he heard the early tramcars swinging down the road; the chirp of the sparrows on the eaves; the clatter of many feet along the pavements; the hum and roar and whirr of mighty London risen to the toil of another day. Then all these things grew fainter and fainter in his ears. And at last he slept; slept as sleeps a child who has put away his toys.

"Bullets" the STRAIGHT Competition with most Prizes. See page 254.

Can you answer these questions?

Every man engaged in business ought to know the answers to these questions. DO YOU know them all?

YOU will probably find it quite easy to answer most of these questions, but unless you are a rare and brilliant exception you will find several others a good deal more difficult. Some of them, indeed, may be altogether beyond you.

And yet, you will agree, they are all questions that you might have to answer any day in your own business. So—if only out of curiosity—run through the list and see how many you can answer correctly.

20 Specimen Questions.

1. What is the exact purpose of a ledger?
2. What do these signs mean: "E. & O. E.," "F.A.S." & "G.A"?
3. How would you open a branch?
4. What is a consignment note?
5. Do you know how to organise a sale?
6. Do you understand office organisation?
7. What is the difference between sending goods on "consignment" and "on sale or return"?
8. How often by law must a factory be "lime-washed"?
9. How and when is a judgment summons issued?
10. What is the cost of registering a limited company?
11. What is the rule about doubtful debts in assessing income tax?
12. Do you know how to take out a patent?
13. Must a receipt be in writing to be valid?
14. What exactly is a "special settlement"?
15. How and when can you claim for loss of an article sent by registered post?
16. What is the difference between a factor and a broker?
17. How would you draw up a selling scheme?
18. How does a secured creditor in bankruptcy abandon his security?
19. Is a seaside shopkeeper liable for rates in the winter when his shop is shut up?
20. How can you recover debts at court without the expense of a solicitor or collecting agency?

How Many Did You Answer?

Well, how have you come through this examination in business knowledge? You must not forget that the knowledge of these facts and of many other facts like them is absolutely necessary to you if you mean to succeed. If you are in business for yourself you know how useful you would find it to be able to answer any business problem that arose; if you are working for others you must realise that your employer will value you more highly if he knows he can go to you for information when he needs it.

And that is why the "Business Encyclopædia and Legal Adviser" is so valuable a work—because it contains information about every point in business life. With it by your side you can answer any question about business that is put to you. For instance, you can answer all the questions that you have just asked yourself. You will find the full purpose of a ledger in the article on Ledgers, Vol. III., page 294. Under "Abbreviations" you will find the meaning of every symbol and sign that is used in business to-day. The third question you will solve by looking up the fine article on the Basic Idea in Business, and so on with all the other questions; and, in fact, with any question about anything relating to business. Thus, in question 19, you will find in a moment that the shopkeeper is liable for rates for the whole time (see Vol. III., page 26).

How This Concerns You.

These questions may not arise in your business, but others do, and if you think it would mean anything to you to know at once what to say or do in every emergency, you should send the coupon below for a handsome illustrated book on Business, telling all about the "Business Encyclopædia" and giving the names of the successful business men who have written it. It also tells how any reader of JOHN BULL may obtain the complete work in seven volumes for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only, and pay the balance in small monthly payments. Sending the coupon commits you to nothing. Is such an opportunity one you should miss?

Written by Successful Business Men.

All the information you get from the "Business Encyclopædia" is up-to-date and reliable, for its contributors include many of the most successful business men of the day, among them being such famous men as Richard Burbidge (Managing-Director, Harrods Stores), S. F. Edge (the well-known Motor Expert), John Lawrie (Managing-Director William Whiteley, Ltd.), Sir Joseph Lyons (Managing-Director J. Lyons and Co., Ltd.), H. G. Selfridge (Founder of Selfridge's, Ltd.), Wareham Smith (Advertisement Director of the *Daily Mail*), Sir Thomas Dewar (Managing Director of J. Dewar and Sons), J. Murray Allison (Advertisement Manager of *The Times*), H. Simonis (Director of the *Daily News and Leader*), etc., etc.

TWO OPINIONS.

J. S. FRY & SONS, Ltd., write:—

"We strongly advise all commercial men to purchase the work. It is the work *par excellence* for every business man to possess."

Mr. L. C. HORSLEY, Cashier, Marlborough Road, Ipswich.

"I find it is of the greatest possible assistance to me in my work as cashier to one of the largest manufacturing companies in East Anglia. I am sorry there were not such valuable sources of information years ago. It would have saved me hours of work."

A FREE BOOK.

This Coupon entitles you to one free copy of the book describing the "Business Encyclopædia," but it must be sent at once. It tells all about the work and the specially low terms to readers of JOHN BULL.

To the CAXTON PUBLISHING CO., LTD.,
54, Surrey Street, London, W.C.

Please send me one complimentary copy of the book on the "Business Encyclopædia." I am a reader of JOHN BULL.

Name .....
(Send this form or a postcard.)

Address .....

.....

LORD NEWTON'S BILL.

AND HOW TO EVADE IT.

By An Inveterate Gambler.

It will make precious little difference whether Lord Newton's Bill becomes an Act of Parliament, or whether it is dropped. It could not prevent the publication of advertisements that Messrs. Snooks do NOT make a book or that Big Nosed Dutchy does NOT sell tips. In India, years ago, there was trouble threatened if a big Derby sweep continued to be advertised. What happened? Why, we read:

PATNA DERBY SWEEP.
Owing to the action of the authorities
the Committee are compelled
to announce that the draw for the
above Sweep
WILL NOT TAKE PLACE.
Further particulars from
W. Scroggins, Secretary, Patna.

There would not be the least difficulty in making dozens of announcements that those in the know would understand to mean the exact opposite of the literal signification of the words. If Big Nosed Dutchy wanted to blow his own trumpet, he could advertise: "Big Nosed Dutchy, of 273, Cromer Street, King's Cross, W.C., does not think much of a lot of people who pretend to give advice on racing subjects, and is shocked to think that the public should be so swindled. Let them keep their money in order to invest it in some of Big Nosed Dutchy's best English and Scotch beef." Tipsters who have a trade in addition to tipping, and bookmakers who are similarly circumstanced, may advertise to their hearts' content.

Such is the perversity of the human race that if you tell a thousand people not to do a thing, a few hundred will be sure to do it. A paper with such a name as the *Anti-Gambler* could be delivered with impunity, even to minors. Underneath a picture of Mr. Bookmaker Snooks's palatial residence there might be: "Who paid for that house, I want to know? Why, those folks with the get-rich-quick microbe, who backed horses with him. Just look at the 'list' that he has the effrontery to quote on the Lincolnshire Handicap and the Grand National! Can you want a better object lesson to prove the theory that bookmakers *must* win? Can he pay you, in case you floundered on a winner? Of course he can't! But don't you let him win your money."

Should Lord Newton's Bill become law there would be plenty of *Anti-Gamblers* of that sort started, full of pseudo-cant which would in reality be betting advertisements and tipsters' braggadocio very thinly disguised. Lord Newton's Bill would but beget sanctimonious humbugs, and we are so well supplied with them at present that any more would be a glut on the market.

INTEMPERATE TEMPERANCE.

AN INSURANCE CARD WHICH REQUIRES STAMPING ON.

The old criticism of the so-called temperance societies that, though they may be temperate in what goes into their mouths, they are most intemperate in the language which comes out, is justified by a postcard which was sent to a member of the Sons of Temperance, No. 215, British Workman Division, No. 334—which cabbalistic concern is apparently run by a Mr. E. M. Hodges, of Gloucester House, Brunswick Square, Bristol—he, at any rate, signed the postcard:—

> Please take notice if I do not receive you (*sic*) 2 card (*sic*) in 2 day (*sic*) you will be liable to £5 fine.

The youth to whom this threatening missive was addressed was so frightened that he begged his mother to communicate with a friend who had been good enough to advise them in a time of trouble, and who succeeded in persuading the young man that there was no imminent danger of his going to the local jail. Many of the disadvantages of the Insurance Act have been pointed out in the Press, but that it should lend itself to the perpetration of such an outrage as the sending of this postcard is, we think, quite a new one.

NURSERY RHYMES A LA WESTMINSTER.

By Greatrex Newman.

I.
Old Bonar Hubbard
Went to the cupboard
To get out his "Food Taxes" new,
But when he got there
The cupboard was bare,
He'd taken the *Daily Mail's* cue.

II.
Young Asquith Horner,
In a tight corner,
Eating his "Home Rule" pie:
He said, "I'll retire
To the House that is Higher,
And gladly bid Redmond Good-bye."

III.
Little boy Winston, blow your horn;
Your chances as Premier look forlorn,
For I've just heard a dicky bird say
It's either Lloyd George or Edward Grey.

IV.
Christabel Peep
She left her sheep,
And went off to Paris to hide her;
She stayed there, too,
Because she knew
She'd have to do "time" if they tried her.

V.
Balfour Jill
Went up the hill
To watch the others blunder;
He said, "I yearn
Back to return,
As soon as Law goes under."

VI.
Redmond John, Redmond John,
Where have you been?
I've been to Boston
To see a spalpeen.
Redmond John, Redmond John,
What did you do?
I borrowed some dollars
To help our Bill through.

VII.
Ba, Ba, Carson,
Are you going to fight?
Yes, sir, yes, sir, three days quite;
At least we'll try to frighten you,
And if we find that fail—
Well, then, we'll try and start a war,
To please the *Daily Mail*.

VIII.
Austen had a little plan,
He tried to make a show,
To knock old Walter Long right out
When Bonar had to go.

IX.
I often diddle
A speaker, and riddle
His arguments to smithereens;
The Government know
That "F. E." isn't slow,
For I give the Ministers beans.

X.
Lloydie was a Welshman,
Lloydie was a Chancellor-of-the-Exchequer;
Lloydie put on taxes
That caused the Nation grief.
Everybody cursed him,
Until at last he died;
And then they put up monuments
And spoke of him with pride.
(Yess, yess, whatever!)

IS BALZAC IMMORAL?

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It is a matter of common knowledge that the recent announcement of an edition of that great French author, Balzac, in its complete and unexpurgated form, caused a considerable stir in certain quarters.

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The Lily of the Valley.
The Illustrious Gaudissart.
The Village Cure.
The Country Doctor.
The Magic Skin.
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HIS REVERENCE: "Ah! but what if we should be consumed by fire—remember that may be the end of the Human Race."
HIS IRREVERENCE: "The Final Heat, I suppose?"

SAD STORIES.

By Leopold Spero.

A sea captain, while busily engaged in a conflict with the elements, was suddenly interrupted by the advent of an elderly nuisance, who was washed on to the bridge by a wave with a sense of humour. "Tell me," chattered the apparition, when it had recovered its so-called senses, "are we in any d-danger, captain?" "Not a bit," replied the salt, "all the mainbraces are being spliced at this very moment by a son of a sea-cook." "And is that a useful precaution?" enquired the throw-out. "Very necessary," said the captain. "Had I neglected it, the ship's company would never have been in a position to shiver its timbers, as it is now so happily engaged in doing." "B-but are we f-far f-from land?" persisted the plague spot. "Scarcely a mile," said the captain, composedly. "In which direction?" enquired the passenger. "Why," said the captain, as he grasped it by the collar and dropped it overboard, "in the same direction as you're going—straight down."

* * * *

"It was a fine performance," said the unclean party. "I have seldom attended a better. George Alexyndham was delightful. A most appreciative audience, too; artistic and elegant. Quite my company." "But," remarked a respectable acquaintance, "it was surely less than an hour before the performance that you came to me, asking for the loan of half-a-crown to buy bread for your wives and children." "True," said the seedy one, "I did." "Then how comes it," asked his friend, "that you are able to pay for a theatre seat?" "I said nothing about payment." "Then how did you get in?" "Ah," said the loafer, "would you spring a half-dollar to know?" The other sprang. "Well," said Autolycus, "it was like this. I walked in backwards at the end of the first act, and they must have thought I was coming out."

THE MAN AND HIS CREED.

VII.—MR. LAURENCE GINNELL, M.P.

Oi Belave in catchin' th' Spaker's Oye.

Oi Belave in airin' me gravance whin Oi carn't catch th' Spaker's Oye.

Oi Belave in tellun um phwat Oi think av um whin he fails in his juty.

Oi Belave in floggin' a dead donkey until ut shows some sparrrk av loife.

Oi Belave the Crown Jools were niver stolen from Dublin Castle at all, at all.

Oi Belave the thafe thot took thim thought betther av ut an' returrned thim wid the collusion av the Govern-mint.

Oi Belave th' Governmint know where the jools arrre at this very minnit.

Oi Belave th' Governmint have an inthrist in consalin' the name av the dirrrty thafe thot took um.

Oi Belave thot the Scotland Yarrrd detective thot was sent tu Dublin didn't go afther all.

Oi Belave thot whin he came back he made a verbal reporrrt in writing, and thot the same mintioned the name av the thafe—bad cess tu um!

Oi Belave there is more in this Dublin Castle scandal than meets the oye; and, by hivin! Oi'll foind out the thruth av the matther even if ut turrrns out tu be a pack av loies!

Oi Belave thot the thafe thot stole the jools an' thought betther av ut before he took um wasn't wan man at all at all, but tu; and Oi've got the names av the scoundrels up me sleeve this very minnit in me throusers pockut and by the divils thot dance on Macgillecuddy's Breeks, Oi'll projooce thim wan av these toimes whin the Spaker's not lookin'!

Oi Belave in Home Rule for Oireland.

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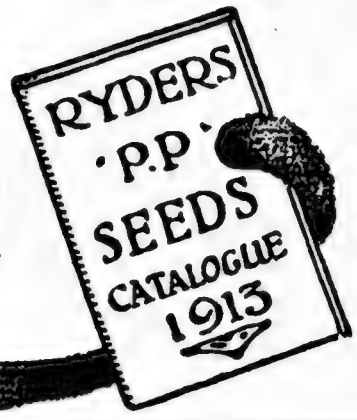

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OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS, AND TELEGRAMS.

To the Right Hon. Sir Edward Grey, M.P.

DEAR SIR EDWARD,—Disquieting reports continue to reach me with reference to the action of the British authorities in the matter of the Opium Traffic in China.

The Chinese Government has taken strong measures to stamp out the pernicious habit of opium smoking among its people. I should have thought that the British Foreign Office would have been in full sympathy with these efforts. Unfortunately, however, it appears that humanitarian considerations have been subordinated to the supposed interests of financiers whose capital is deeply involved in the Indian Opium Trade.

Quite recently the British cruiser *Flora* was despatched from Shanghai to the port of Anking to exact reparation from certain Chinese officials who had caused a consignment of opium to be destroyed. Surely you do not approve of the use of a British warship for such a purpose? I am bound to assume that the British Consul at Shanghai, by whose orders the vessel was despatched, was acting without your knowledge or authority.

In any case, I beg you to look into the matter for yourself, in order that appropriate action may be taken to prevent a repetition of such a scandal. We have already shown too tender a consideration for Indian merchants who batten on this nefarious traffic. The full weight of British influence should be exerted to assist the Government of China in their efforts to eradicate a vice so destructive of the manhood of a nation. JOHN BULL.

To Llewellyn Williams, Esq., M.P., House of Commons, Westminster.

DEAR LLEWELLYN,—What is this I hear? You—a Liberal Member of Parliament, and a Welsh Member too, one of the Chancellor's own particular flock—have actually dared to criticise the Government's Welsh Disestablishment Bill and to hurl gibes, flouts and sneers at Ministers of the Crown!

I stand aghast at your temerity. Can you have counted the cost? Are you really so different from the ordinary run of lawyers that you care neither for preferment nor for fees? I give it up. Such problems are too high for me. At any rate, you have spoken out like a man, and I admire your pluck. JOHN BULL.

To Mr. John Broadley Harrison-Broadley, Howdenshire, Yorks.

SIR,—Recently convicted by the Hull magistrates of being drunk whilst in charge of a motor car, and sentenced to fourteen days' imprisonment, you must feel happy in the result of your appeal to Quarter Sessions, when the Recorder quashed the sentence and levied on you the small charge of twenty shillings. I cannot pretend that I agree with the Judge. It is not denied that you were drunk, and it cannot be denied that your offence is of a most serious character, for a man who drives a car in such a condition is a menace to the community. Possibly the Recorder was somewhat impressed by the fact that you have the social standing of a gentleman as the son of a county magnate who is also a Member of Parliament; in any case, I am sure that the payment of a sovereign involves no sacrifice and entails no punishment upon you.

I can conceive it possible that a merry gentleman like yourself, who for all I know to the contrary has allowed the indiscretions of youth to develop into the unconsidered fooleries of middle age, may not realise, when drunk, the public danger arising from such acts. Permit me to tell you, however, that one of the London stipendiaries recently announced that he should not listen to any appeal for fines in regard to such offences, but would send the delinquents to prison; whilst on the very day on which the Recorder of Hull was pleased to fine you this ridiculous sovereign, the Liverpool magistrate was sentencing a man charged with a like offence to fourteen days' imprisonment, a punishment of exactly the same character as that which the Hull magistrates originally inflicted on you. And, in conclusion, let me proffer to you a word of advice: If you cannot drive a motor car without getting drunk, engage a sober chauffeur. JOHN BULL.

To Alderman Dunham, Town Council, Bedford.

MY DEAR ALDERMAN,—I am always delighted when I see a member of a public authority challenge any attempt at sweating its employers, and I congratulate you on your recent action in regard to the disgraceful sweating of the Bedford Town Council's staff of subordinate clerks, in order to aggrandise its Deputy Town Clerk. Right indeed was it that you should protest against the action of a Finance Committee which, after engaging new clerks at salaries which would insult a road-sweeper, reported that "the loss of services of trained and efficient assistants and the taking on of younger and untrained ones in their stead will necessarily entail upon the Deputy Town Clerk more work and increased responsibilities for which he should be recompensed by a salary-increase." In the meantime, the Second Clerk is expected to board, lodge, and clothe himself on 15s. a week. Do assure him of my sympathies, and say that I trust his desires for food are strictly moderate. JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. F. B. Meyer, Regent's Park Chapel, London.

REVEREND KILLJOY,—I observe that you again require attention. This time it is the harmless cinematograph which has incurred your unrighteous wrath. You see all sorts of imaginary dangers and temptations in these entertainments, and you declare that you, forsooth, and those who believe in you, are called upon to shield the young from the awful perils which beset them! You are required to do nothing of the sort. The young people don't need protection, and even if they did, you are about the last man in London I should select for the job. What kind of picture-shows you have been to, I don't know. Those I have seen have been decent enough, unless of course a man has a peculiarly nasty mind. In any case, we have not yet constituted you a censor of public morals. When we want you, we will let you know.

JOHN BULL.

To W. R. Lawson, Esq., Stockbroker and Financial Critic, London.

DEAR LAWSON,—You have had such a shocking bad time in the Marconi Committee that I do not want to add to your agony by touching you on the raw. The truth is, you flung so much dirt about without caring where or how it stuck, and your eyes got so filled up with the splashes, that you weren't able to see even the nose on your face. The whole muck heap is now tumbled over, my dear chap, and the general opinion is that you are buried under it. If you should emerge alive, for goodness' sake be rather more careful of other people's reputations if you have any regard for your own.

JOHN BULL.

To Mr. H. G. Clarke, General Secretary, United Order of General Labourers, London.

DEAR SIR,—I have seen your letter to Mr. Wynne Baxter, the East London Coroner, read at the inquest on a man named Anderson, a wharf labourer, who died suddenly from hæmorrhage of the lungs. The widow is utterly destitute, and though her husband had seen 25 years' service in the King's Navy, I gather that at the time you wrote there was little hope of his receiving any other than a pauper's burial. I hope your efforts saved his poor body from that degradation, or, at any rate, his memory from such insult. Most earnestly I agree with you that "it is a disgrace to our Government to allow a man who has practically given the whole of his life for the protection of our country to receive a pauper's funeral." It would not be allowed in the case of an Admiral of the Fleet or a General in the Army—whatever might have been his faults, an honoured grave would bury them all. Admiral of the Fleet or man at the guns, no one can offer to his country at the call of duty a greater thing than his life, and the least his country can offer when he has passed to his rest is a grave without stigma and without slight. Some day, perhaps, the new Service Estimates will provide contingent funds to save the nation from this reproach.

JOHN BULL.

Sir William Coddington, Wycollar Hall, Blackburn.

Hearty congratulations on marriage at 83. Regard you as splendid example of a hopeful spirit. BULL.

"Bullets" Prizes to the Value of £1,705 to be Divided this Week.

NOT "SOLD"!

JOHN BULL: "Yes, it MAY be a great sacrifice on your part, but I tell you I don't WANT to 'buy a pup'."

TERPSICHORE IN TOWN.

A SOCIAL CONTRAST.

By RICHARD MORTON.

I.

Lady Clara Vere de Vere was going to the Saturnalia Fancy Dress Ball. With a few of her most exclusive friends of both sexes she had formed quite a "divvy"—which means "divine" in the language of ordinary persons—little party, and anticipated, probably with justice, having a real good time.

It was not to be an expensive affair—not to commence with, for the tickets were only a guinea each, including supper. There was merely the costume to be provided, but that must certainly not be cheap, for all her friends and acquaintances were going to do the thing well, while rumour spoke of some extraordinary gowns to be worn by other patrons of the affair.

Lady Clara Vere de Vere could not consent to remain in the background, so she had employed an artist person to design her a costume correct to the nation and period represented by her group. It was certainly a rather daring design, but Lady Clara liked it none the less for that. A leading costumier made it up for her, and she looked very striking in it. It cost a lot of money, and there did not seem to be much to show for the outlay—or, rather, there was a great deal to show and not over much to wear.

But it was a charity affair, and somebody has already said that charity uncovers a multitude of shins. It certainly does so at a very high-class fancy-dress ball. Lady Clara, in her Eastern garb, was just a fairy in filmy muslin and barbaric jewels.

She started to dress immediately after luncheon, and it was six o'clock before she was ready for the man from the wig-maker's to build up her hair. The tresses he brought with him were a wonderful match, and Lady Clara's head was a triumph of loveliness when his artistic fingers had finished their delicate task. Her own hair, what there was of it, looked quite well when arranged round the other pieces.

She had promised her best boy to be ready to receive him at nine, but it was past eleven when she told her maid "he may come in, now."

"Well, and how do I look?" she asked, posing in her fluffy attire.

"Rippin'," he pronounced. "And, hang it, Clara, I ain't a bit sorry you kept me waitin'."

II.

All was quiet in Paradise Court, as quiet as ever it can be in that over-crowded corner. The hour was soon after tea-time, the time of that late tea which workers take when they get home from toil.

At the lower end of the court the calm was idyllic, save for the interruptions of half-a-dozen babies. But that was only the usual thing, unnoticed because so ordinary.

At the top end of the court was the highway, and traffic and noise. A big box on two wheels was trundled into the court, and a grinning Italian began instantly to turn a handle lustily.

Top, middle, and lower end of the court were galvanised into life. Young people tumbled out of doors excitedly; older folk followed more leisurely, but still with excitement in their eyes.

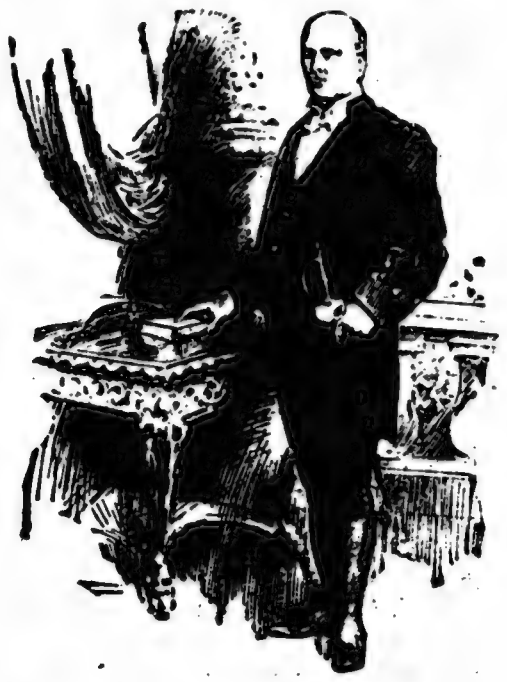
"Lor!" cried Lizer, bolting her last crust—she had come home late from the works—"Lor! why, there's old Jack, and I was forgittin' it was his orgin night. Come on, Sal!" Lizer was already making for the door. "What? Waitin' to put on yer 'at? Come like me, apron and all!"

In the court, the dance is in progress. There are some really good dancers, too, trained in pantomime time.

Sal looks longingly around. She knows why she wanted to put her hat on. "I do hope Fred'll turn up. He promised to do the Borston wif me to-night."

"BULLETS" BOOMING.

The continued success of our Bullets Competition enables us this week to increase our First Prize to the huge sum of £400. Full particulars will be found on page 254.



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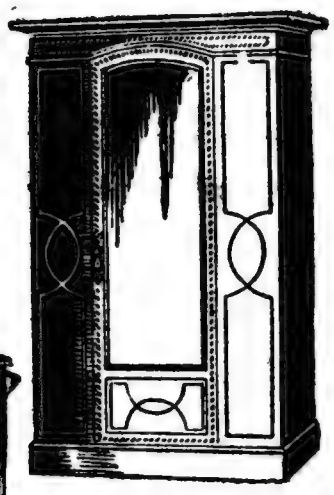

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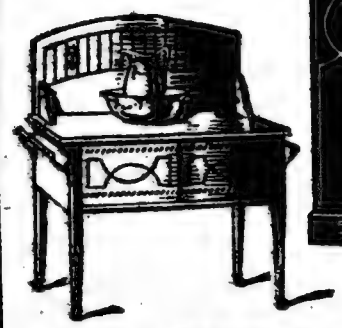
Orders received during this Sale will have our immediate and most careful attention, and our Stock is such that we can give immediate delivery of anything selected.



An additional discount of 10 % will always be allowed for Cash, and your fares to our Showrooms paid on any order over £20.

Bedroom Suite, as Illustrated, £9 9s.

For the thousands who wish to take advantage of our present Sale Prices, and who at the same time want further special terms, we offer our GRADUAL PAYMENTS. All you are required to pay is a small sum per month or per quarter, arranged so that the complete purchase is made in a term of one, two, or three years, as may suit your convenience. No interest is charged for this, and it follows that it costs you no more to purchase in this way.

Our Second-hand Department enables our customers to secure much better bargains than are possible either at auction sales or from the ordinary dealer.

GENERAL TERMS.

£10	Worth	£0	6	0	per Month
20	,,	0	11	0	,,
30	,,	0	17	0	,,
40	,,	1	5	0	,,
50	,,	1	8	0	,,
100	,,	2	5	0	,,
200	,,	4	10	0	,,
500	,,	11	5	0	,,
1,000	,,	22	10	0	,,

We do not charge interest or require deposit. Country Customers' fares are paid on any order over £30. Every article purchased is very carefully packed and delivered to any required address free of all cost. Any Carpets or Linos bought will be laid free, and schemes for completely furnishing a house in various original and attractive styles will be submitted at your request. £10,000 of Secondhand Furniture always in stock.

HACKNEY FURNISHING Company, Ltd.,

OXFORD ST. SHOWROOMS:

103 & 103a OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.

Telephone: 8036 and 8008 Gerrard. Telegrams: "Onenwork, London."

Ramsgate Branch: High Street, Ramsgate.

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1, 2, 3, 4, Town Hall Buildings; 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, The Grove (adjoining), Mare St., Hackney, London.

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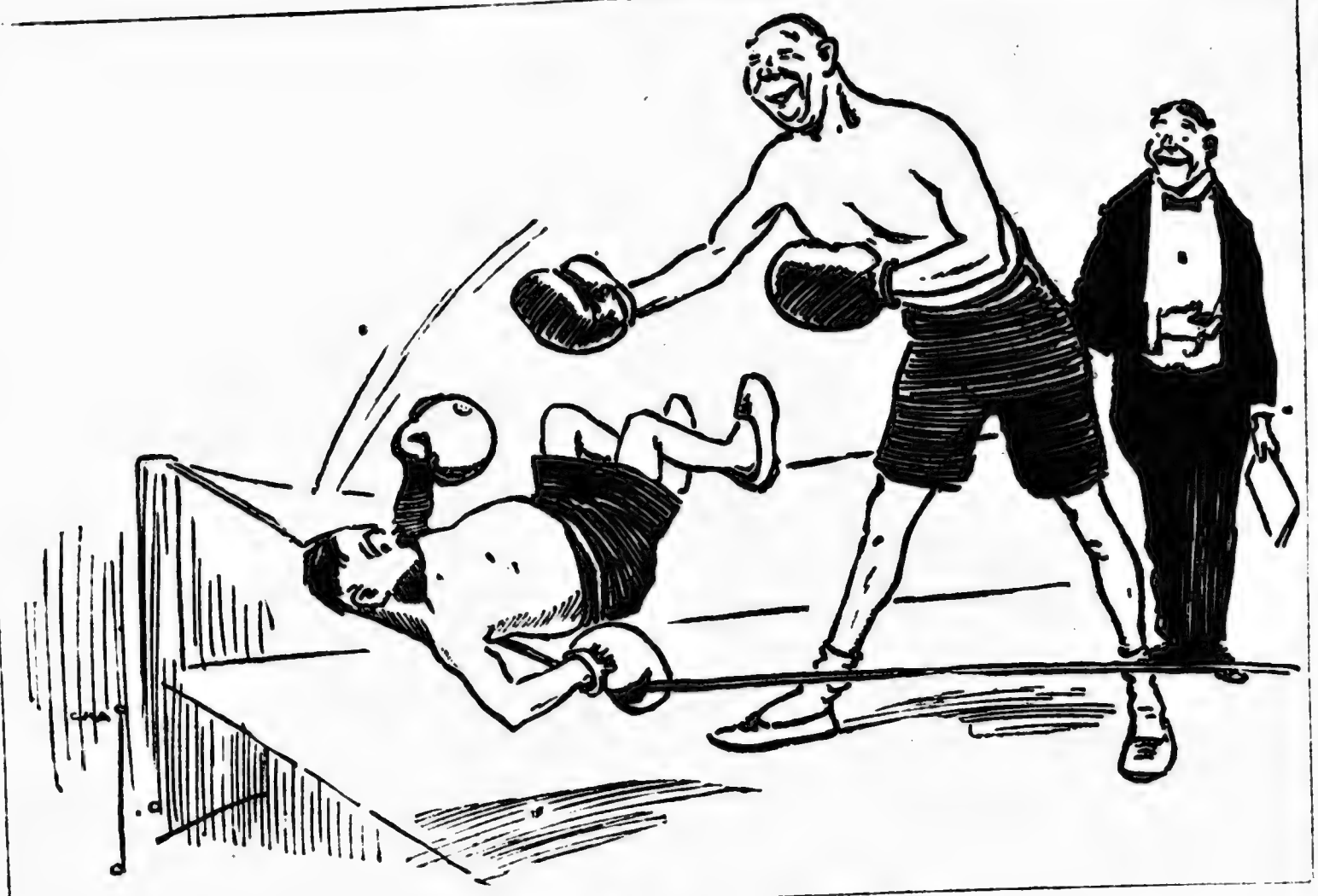
HOURS OF BUSINESS: Oxford Street—9 till 8: Saturdays 9 till 1 o'clock. Mare Street—9 till 9: Thursdays 9 till 1 o'clock.

BILLIARD EXPRESSIONS—II.

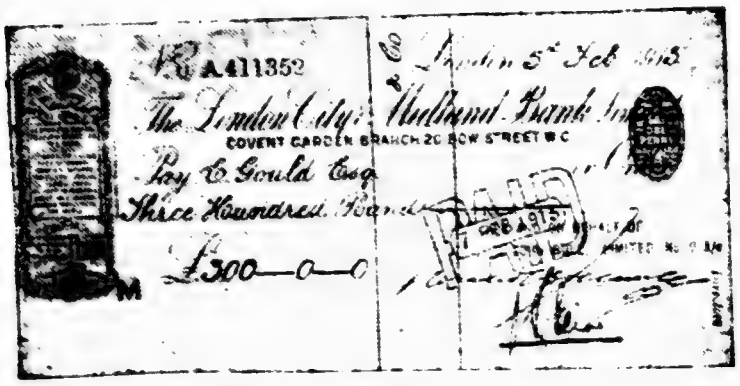


"NO GOOD WITH THE LONG ONES."

OUR NO. 16 BULLETS COMPETITION.

ANOTHER LADY WINS THE FIRST PRIZE OF £300.

Miss E. Gould, the Brixton young lady who won the £300, tells us that it is quite impossible for her adequately to express her delight and surprise She points out a slight mistake in addressing her as one of the stronger sex—due, however, to her coupon merely stating its sender to be "E. Gould." However, the error was of little conse-



quence, as there was no difficulty in cashing the cheque She naturally feels very gratified to have secured the magnificent prize by her own efforts. She tells us that she might have grown disheartened had she not known that the coupons were read twice. We heartily congratulate her on being the third lady to win the premier award, and as will be seen in another column, have to thank her for the generous donation of £5 to our Human Document Fund. The original of the above cheque is on view on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, February 12th, 13th and 14th, in the window of Mr. T. Kitchenside, 31, Electric Avenue, Brixton; and on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, February 15th, 17th, and 18th, in that of Mr. J. C. Mercer, 6, Loughborough Road, S.W.

THE MODEST YOUNG MAN.

(In the course of a recent speech, Mr. Asquith referred to Mr. Churchill as a man of shrinking modesty.)

I did not half expect the Chief
  Could ever be so gushing,
And—well, it's almost past belief—
  I'm positively blushing.
I've been called most things 'neath the sun,
  But this is quiet the oddest,
I really think it takes the bun
  To hear I am so modest.

Except on such authority,
  Which is the very highest,
I'd never deem myself to be
  Enrolled among the shyest;
I've heard remarks about my cheek,
  My bumptiousness so boyish,
So now, when I am hailed as meek,
  I'm feeling almost coyish.

I'll act up to this epithet,
  The prospect seems to dazzle;
I'll get the modest violet
  All beaten to a frazzle;
I'll prove how bashful I can be,
  Eschewing modes bombastic;
Yet—p'raps I'd better wait and see
  If Asquith "spoke sarcastic."

"PASS THE SALT."

PEOPLE WHO DON'T CONVINCE US.

Mr. Grundy, Vicar of St. Peter's Church, Brockley, who has started a marriage agency.

And Mrs. Grundy, who will probably have something to say of it.

The lady who advertised herself as a bachelor.

Your Football Skill may make You Independent for Life. See page 249.

"I know of nothing which so quickly arouses vitality in run-down conditions"

These are a *doctor's* words about Hall's Wine—words which many another doctor and many a one-time patient gratefully endorse. Never neglect a run-down state of health! Let Hall's Wine help *you*; it *will* help you; in debility, nerve troubles, insomnia, neuralgia, and all kinds of weakness, its benefit is *certain*: under our GUARANTEE Hall's Wine *must* help you, or we refund the money you pay for it. Says another doctor: "Hall's Wine is the most reliable. I never advise any other, and I have tried them all."

Hall's Wine is the *proved* strength-giver. As a *stimulant* it makes available such bodily energy as already exists. As a tonic it secures you energy from your food: as a nutrient, it supplies energy of itself. The first dose sends a glow and stimulus right through you, and, best of all, the good that Hall's Wine does is *permanent*.

Hall's Wine

Buy a bottle of Hall's Wine to-day. If you do not feel *real benefit* after taking half the bottle, return us the half-empty bottle, and your money and postage will be refunded.

3/6 large size, 2/- smaller bottles, of Wine Merchants and Grocers and Chemists with wine licenses.

PROPRIETORS: STEPHEN SMITH & CO., LTD., BOW, LONDON, E.

If this were a mustard pot

on your table, it would be the first thing to ask for directly the meat is served.

It is just as necessary to have a touch of mustard on your plate as it is to have a knife and fork in your hands. *Be sure it's*

Colman's D.S.F. Mustard.

S.116.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT VACANCIES

Men and Women. No Fumes.

Enrol to-day for rapid and successful coaching by post for Masters, Matrons, Stewards, Relieving Officers, Registrars, Clerks, Assistants; also special Courses for Sanitary Officers, Health Visitors, and Local Exchange appointments, Board of Trade Examiners, Clerks and Clerk-Messengers. Success assured. Write for "College Magazine" free.

PRESS OPINIONS ON THIS COLLEGE:

"A Straightforward Concern."—JOHN BULL.

"Supervised by Experts with actual experience."—POOR LAW JOURNAL.

Address, Secretary, The Poor Law Postal Training College, 39, Thanet House, Strand, W.C.

FARROW'S BANK Limited.

Incorporated under the Joint Stock Companies Acts.

Authorised Capital	...	£500,000
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Reserve Liability	...	£236,757

Chairman and Managing Director

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EVERY DESCRIPTION OF JOINT-STOCK BANKING TRANSACTED.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS.—Accounts are opened and interest allowed where credit balances are maintained for six months.

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STOCKS & SHARES BOUGHT & SOLD.

Call or write for Illustrated Booklet.

Head Office:

1, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON, E.C.

Bull's Eyes.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION :—
Is the Reform Club yet "out of de Forest"?
Are the Welsh Liberals positively revolting?
Isn't a Business Government "a sure thing?"
Is "mellowdrama" how our playwrights spell it?
Has the "Flannelette Bill" got the right stuff in it?
Will the taxi-strikers' choir result in "surplice" funds?
What happens when a broken Ottoman is heavily "sat on"?
Isn't £6 a week for life a goal worth shooting at? See page 254.
Would it be possible for the Suffragettes to "go too far"?
Hasn't the present Government made good "jobs" of its Bills?
Will "acres" and "achers" soon become synonymous terms?
Isn't there method in the madness of the "crazy" campaigners?
Will the damage to Lloyd George's thumb enable those under it to escape?

* * *

MERELY RUMOURS :—
That the Plural Voting Bill will prove singular.
That Mr. Bonar Law's moderate tariff would be a Progressive one.
That although the Franchise Bill has been dropped, no promises have been broken.

* * *

BOOK-TITLE WELLERISMS :—
"Called Back"—as the shoplifter said when asked to return to the office.
"The Sign of the Cross"—as the illiterate man said when asked for his signature.
"Within the Maze"—as the insured person said in the crowded panel surgery.
"The Yellow Peril"—as the candidate said as he retreated before a shower of eggs.
"Looking Backward"—as the lad said when asked to explain his encounter with the lamppost.
"When It Was Dark"—as the young lady said when asked the time of the proposal.
"The Return of the Native"—as the waiter said when the diner refused a bad oyster.
"Great Expectations"—as the nephew said when he received the wire announcing his uncle's illness.
"Innocents Abroad"—as the Customs officer said when he discovered the smuggled goods at the top of the trunk.

* * *

Opportunity rarely comes with a postman's knock.

* * *

Evidently Londonderry prefers a live Hogg to Paken-ham.

* * *

"Burglar aged nine," we read. He evidently wants breaking in.

* * *

"Bakers' Demands," we read. They are always kneading something.

* * *

The Suffragettes' "Guerrilla War" is getting the public's monkey up.

* * *

Many glaciers are moving. Cannot make up the big rents, we suppose.

* * *

Flying is a cure for insomnia, we are told. But it sometimes means a wake.

* * *

Artificial dimples can now be had for ten guineas. But artificial smiles usually cost more.

* * *

"Drunk in the legs only," a man pleaded at Brentford. But the calves had had more than milk.

* * *

Mme. Paquin has been decorated with the Legion of Honour. Just where we should expect to find a rare ribbon.

* * *

Madame Sarah Bernhardt is to play Mephistopheles. She will not be the first actress to play the very Devil.

* * *

567 questions were set for the jury in the French motor-bandit case. They must have a lady public-prosecutor.

* * *

It is stated that the Suffragettes have broken £5,000 worth of glass. But, of course, this includes the precious stones.

* * *

A peeress who has financed a firm of butchers is making handsome profits. Her husband can consider himself a baron of beef.

* * *

An Anglesey solicitor says that, as Welsh is a poetical language, it has no mathematical terms. But "nine for four" runs mathematics pretty close.

"Pickpocket with a title," we read. A taking one, we suppose.

* * *

Another headline: "Football Player's Lapse." Should be promptly sat upon.

* * *

Another flying machine company is being formed. We shall not have a flutter.

* * *

Pleasure Garden, which came in first at Kempton Park, must have laid itself out to win.

* * *

The unmarried man may not be happy, but he conceals his misery with remarkable skill.

* * *

A pair of Goethe's slippers have been sold for £5. His "mantle" is still going begging.

* * *

The Pope has abandoned smoking and contents himself with snuff. We hope he feels up to it.

* * *

"Fashions in Jade," reads a heading. "Jades in Fashions" may also be seen in the West End.

* * *

Bernard Shaw's new sixpenny weekly is to be called the *Statesman*. It sounds a "promising" title.

* * *

A Prague antiquarian refused £24,000 for a carpet. One with so much "dust" in it will take some beating.

* * *

The children's church established at Brixton seems superfluous, childish sermons are preached everywhere.

* * *

"As a nation," says *The Times*, "we are incapable of jabbering." Then the House of Commons is non-existent.

* * *

At Tredegar Park, the home of Viscount Tredegar, a large damson tree is in full bloom. This is too damson.

* * *

Miss Gaby Deslys, who has been telling men how to dress, will perhaps now inform her own sex how to undress.

* * *

After breaking into a shop at Bath a burglar shaved himself. He was not the first burglar to experience a close shave.

* * *

A talking machine that can be heard two miles away has been invented. We fear it will make too much noise in the world.

* * *

"Most judges are too cowardly to order a man the 'cat,'" says Judge Rentoul. Perhaps they are afraid of sending him to the dogs.

* * *

Mr. Forbes Robertson says we want plays to be more serious. Many plays we get now are more than serious; they are almost fatal.

* * *

A French convict has been, in turn, poet, journalist, inventor, and burglar. This illustrates how a man goes from bad to worse.

* * *

A champion swimmer has been bitten by the sea-serpent at Honolulu. But scores of journalists are bitten by the creature every silly season.

* * *

Kissing is said to have been "vulgarised by centuries of repetition." But—— "age cannot wither, nor custom stale, its infinite variety."

* * *

An airship mechanic at Farnborough was carried up one hundred feet by a rope. After all, it was better than being dropped seven feet.

* * *

"Post Impressionists" is the name assumed by certain erratic artists whose pictures might conceivably make some impression on a post.

* * *

English strawberries of the Royal Sovereign variety have been sold at Covent Garden for 40s. a pound. We should call them Royal Two Sovereigns.

* * *

According to *The Times*, "'Ginger' implies zeal without knowledge." So once more is illustrated the important truth, "Ginger, you're balmy."

* * *

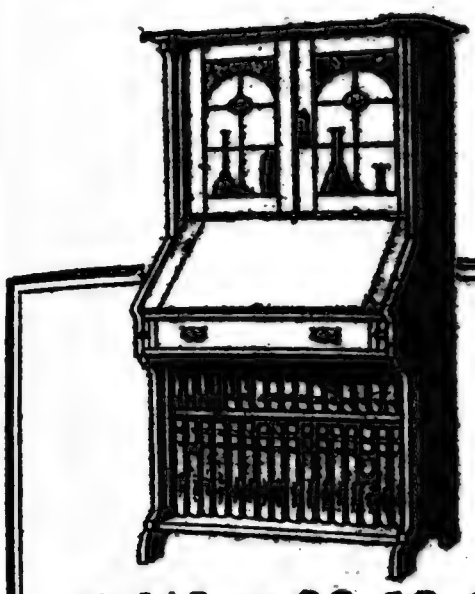
The farmers of to-day are said to be more amenable to advice than their fathers were. Give the modern farmer advice, and he will still gratefully do the other thing.

* * *

Mr. F. B. Kirkman says a dog will bare his teeth both for pleasure and anger. But when Carlo shows his teeth, the man is foolish who stays to ask what the animal's feelings happen to be.

The Huge Sum of £400 for the Best "Bullet" this week. See page 255.

The GREAT SALE in Southampton Row



Quaint Oak Bureau, finished any shade. **£2:18:6**

It will soon be too late

There are only a few days left in which to take advantage of the remarkable bargains we are offering. The end of the record Sale is in sight. Don't miss this great opportunity. Buy during the Sale even if you are not quite ready for the goods. We will store your purchases free of charge for 6 months

FILL IN THE COUPON

NOTE THIS!

Over and above the huge reductions made during the Sale, we will allow a further 10 per cent. discount for cash. Every article is marked in plain figures, and is subject to purchase on our Ideal Payment System (see terms below). No deposit, no interest, no extra charges.

Worth.			Terms. Per Month.			
£10	...	...	£0	6	0	10% discount for Cash.
£20	...	...	0	11	0	
£50	...	...	1	8	0	
£100	...	...	2	5	0	No Charge for Credit.
£200	...	...	4	10	0	
£500	...	...	11	8	0	

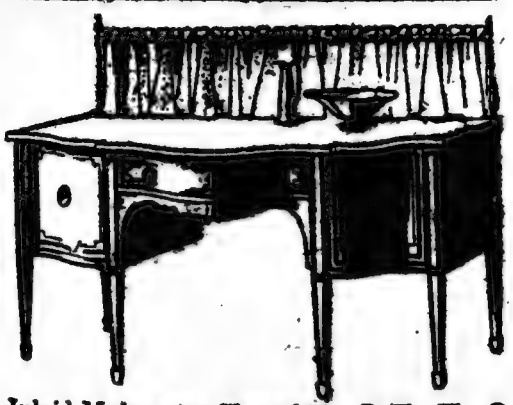
Or by any proportionate payments to suit purchaser's convenience.

Railway Fares Paid.

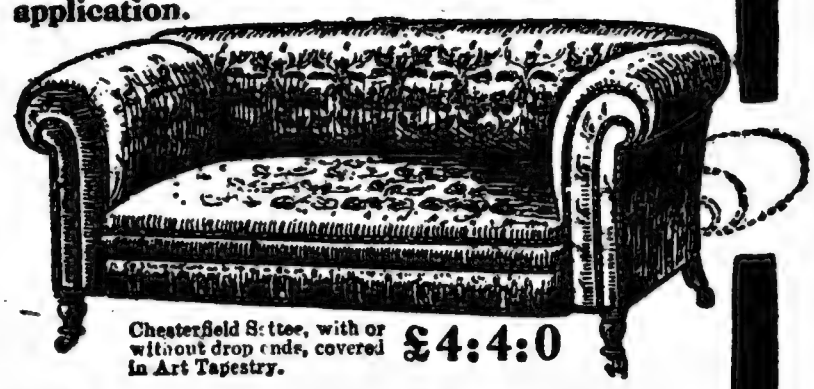
Country Customers' fares to town paid on all orders of £20 and over. Country orders packed and delivered free.

Second-hand Department.

We have in this department alone a stock valued at considerably over £10,000. A special catalogue is issued weekly, which we shall be pleased to forward post free on application.



Inlaid Mahogany Sheraton style Sideboard, with Silk Curtain at back. **£7:5:0**



Chesterfield Settee, with or without drop ends, covered in Art Tapestry. **£4:4:0**

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Furnishing Company, Ltd.

15 to 23 Southampton Row, Holborn, London, W.C.

Hours—9 till 8. Sats. 9 till 1.

Oval Mirrors in Gilt and White **£1:1:0**

To the MIDLAND FURNISHING CO., LTD.
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Please send me per return, post free, a copy of your Sale Bargain Catalogue.

Name.....

Address.....

..... B6

John Bull's Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when writing regarding previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

CORRESPONDENTS desiring INFORMATION *should place their questions in* CONCISE *form and refrain from sending* VOLUMINOUS DOCUMENTS, *at any rate, until asked for them. The Editor is quite unable to devote the time necessary for perusing and considering the scores of folios which correspondents sometimes send.*

For Financial and Insurance Replies, see page 252.
For Sporting Replies, see page 256.

B. J. J. (Brixton) spotted Lord Southwark (late Mr. R. K. Causton M.P. for West Southwark), an accredited Liberal and Progressive leader, racing after a motor omnibus, when trams were passing every minute or so. A hit, a palpable hit!

J. M. (Whitechapel).—The "Hooded M.P." will doubtless select the most convenient moment for timing his resignation.

"DEMOCRAT" (Brixton) thinks he observes a leaning on our part towards the Tory Party, because "in the majority of our articles Liberals are the victims." That is because the Liberals are in power. Wait till the Tories get there!

"ONE WHO KNOWS HIM" (New North Road, Hoxton) sends us a copy of the St. Pancras "Church Hog's" Magazine and directs our attention to the services timed for 6 a.m. We are, however, informed that the ringing of the bells has now been abated, the "Hog" having seemingly been "cured." They are now rung no earlier than 6.55 a.m., and then but twelve times.

A. M. (Newport).—If an emigrant is not permitted to land in Australia for medical reasons, the shipping company would certainly not return the passage money. Should you think there is any chance of your not passing the test, you had better remain at home. As we have often said, "Emigrants, beware!"

"PUZZLED" (Oxon).—The fact that you moved from the house before the rates were demanded does not relieve you from the liability. What a good thing it would be for the moving trade if such were the law! The authorities will no doubt give you time to pay if you explain your position.

E. W. (Breconshire).—We quite agree. There are many out of asylums who ought to be in, and no doubt some in who ought to be out. Your allegation that your wife is fit to be released, and is merely detained because she is a good servant, is serious. You should apply to the authorities to permit you to have her examined by an independent doctor. If this request is refused, send us a copy of the correspondence.

"AN IRISHWOMAN" upbraids us for occasionally indulging in a little good-humoured chaff of the Irish and their delightful brogue—the swatest spache on earth, bedad, an' we mane ut. She must be an unique Irishwoman if her sense of humour is so small; for she concludes her letter by saying, "Feeling so angry and disappointed in you I can say no more." We congratulate ourselves on our escape.

W. F. S. (St. James's, S.W.).—We are inclined to agree with you that the defence should have the last word in a criminal prosecution, rather than the accusing counsel.

"A DISGUSTED OUTSIDER" asks us if we can tell him "what Churches and Vicars are coming to." He should apply to Lloyd George. "He knows. He knows."

MISS S. (Acton Hill, W.) is another correspondent labouring under the erroneous impression that used British postage stamps are of value for getting children into a New South Wales children's hospital. It is time this ridiculous notion were stamped out. We have done our best to perforate it from time to time.

"AN ENGLISHMAN IN IRELAND" (Co. Down) sends us three pages of foolscap closely filled with argument against Home Rule—in the course of which he says, "Its high time that all these Mediaval cermoines carried on in the Commons was done away with." There is a good deal in this. He concludes by saying he has not seen his last letter in our valuable paper. We must look into it.

R. M. J.—If one of the rules of your club is to the effect that any member who has paid his share towards the expenses of an outing and then fails to take part in it shall forfeit the share, we see no reason why it should not be enforced. A member who has subscribed to the rule and afterwards refuses to abide by it, should be summarily ejected. He is not a clubable man.

"ANXIOUS" (Worcester).—You cannot have been reading the newspapers attentively lately, or you would have seen that clairvoyants, palmists, crystal-gazers, etc., *are* being prosecuted. Don't send your short story to us for criticism unless you are very brave.

"AIREDALE" (Willesden, N.W.) encloses a portion of a 1913 almanack issued by Dr. Kilmer and Co., of "Swamp Root" notoriety, which prognosticates inclement weather for the 29th of February. Except in leap year, we always take a small dose of "Swamp Root" early on the morning of the 29th of February to ward off chills.—We believe a dog licence may be taken out in two names, that of a husband and wife.

A. M. C. (Wheathampstead) writes: "Herewith I enclose an article suitable for your paper." We beg to differ.

M. R. (Palmer's Green).—Your husband had better be careful what he does. Nine shillings a week for fifteen years amounts to about £350; without the £10 deposit, which seems to us a long price to pay for a £230 house. But just fancy thinking of buying house property whilst Lloyd George is on the rampage! You surprise us.

A. N. (St. John's Wood) wishes to know whether any JOHN BULL reader can tell him anything of the National Deaf Club in Euston Road, as he can get no reply to his request for particulars.

T. E. D. (Coventry).—The British Rag Doll Company, of 75, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C., also trading as the Shynall Rag Doll Company, at the same address, have treated you in a way which naturally excites your suspicion. Communicate with them again, and inform us of the result.

MISS C. (Millhouses).—When you get the cover back from Australia you will be able to see whether it bears one of the winning numbers. If so, send it in with the usual claim, and we daresay the result will satisfy you.

A. E. (Guildford) asks whether a firm may legally deduct 1s. a week from a workman's wages to pay for a tool valued at about 15s. It all depends upon the terms of the workman's agreement. If no stipulation was made as to deductions for lost tools, the firm are acting beyond their powers.

"A FRIEND" says the hobble skirt has become as tight fitting "as the tights worn in a pantomime." How tight is that?

L. B. (W.) pleads for the abolition of accommodation addresses. We agree that they are very often used for swindling purposes.

"FAIRPLAY" (Hull) sends us an unused sample of the stamped envelopes issued by the Post Office at five for sevenpence-halfpenny, and asks our opinion of it. We will use it to send a missive to our love, and then report. Meanwhile, the paper appears to be good, and the gum not unpleasant to the taste.

G. R. S. (Sunderland).—Whether the policeman was legally justified in stopping your gramophone or not, we cannot say. It depends upon the local bye-laws. But we have no sympathy with you. No man of consideration for his neighbours would start a gramophone rasping and squealing immediately after dinner on Sunday when so many worthy citizens take their siesta. Next time, shut your windows and ram a towel in the mouth of the funnel.

"PICKLES" (Tufnell Park).—On reflection we advise you to have nothing to do with the American mirror-silvering business you refer to. They are after your nimble shillings—about the only quick silver that interests them.

C. T. C. (Stoke-on-Trent) wants to know "what breed of hens lay bad eggs." Only very ill-bred hens would be guilty of such behaviour.

"JUSTICE" (Belfast) cannot get a reply to the letters which he wrote to Colonel Seely and Lord Roberts. "Jack" is too busy at the War Office, and "Bobs" is preparing the country for the fight with Germany.

"Bullets" the STRAIGHT Competition with most Prizes. See page 254.

J. F. B. (Clapham) and others, call our attention to the bogus names and addresses published by an obscure and discredited weekly journal, in connection with a so-called Football Competition. We have forwarded the papers to the Public Prosecutor.

"FRENDENE" (Herne Hill).—If the man from whom you purchased the furniture was not the owner, the person to whom it really belonged can recover it, or its value from you. You, in turn, are entitled to damages from whoever purported to sell it. Great care should always be exercised when buying furniture from private individuals, and the Bills of Sale Register inspected.

"OXONIAN" (Hants).—Sorry, but we cannot fight your legal battles for you; we have always had our hands fairly full with our own. In any event, you are much too late to appeal against a decision given in 1904.

A. J. S. H. (Edinburgh) relates that "a certain youth in Leith who had paid 2s. 4d. for Insurance before receiving his exemption card was, on applying for a refund of his money, sent 4d. in stamps, with the Accountant's compliments." Perhaps it will comfort him to know that his 2s. has gone towards somebody's maternity benefit.

"BUENOS AYRES" (Newark).—Had you read your J.B. more carefully you would have seen some recent comments on emigration to Buenos Ayres. If you write a courteous note to the representative of the Argentine Government in London, Sig. Vincente J. Dominguez, 2, Palace Gate, W., he may give you fuller advice than we can.

B. L. C. (Clapham).—Afraid you have no divine afflatus. For instance, you say of JOHN BULL, "From politics, divorces, abductions and sport, He is never afraid his idea to report"; which is neither sense nor music. If you had said: "He hates party politics, canting, and pork, And never eats jam with a spoon or a fork," we would have appointed you our poet laureate.

"BACHELOR" (E.) is another who wants us to find him a wife He lives near Wanstead Flats, and should take a walk that way next Sunday evening.

E. D. (Huddersfield). For the very last time, the Yankee Captain Rand is a flat catcher.

C. M. C. (Rugby) says the Postal authorities paid him £5 without receiving a Savings Bank warrant for it. He says it is unusual. Why talk about it?

Miss M. T. (Reading) has quite flattered us by asking in which South of England town it would be "advisable" for her to open a millinery and ladies' outfitting business. The consensus of opinion of the male married members of our staff is, that it would not be advisable for her to open a business of that description anywhere. They declare there are sufficient temptations placed before their wives in the shape of "the latest creations" as it is, without adding to them. Better consult *Mrs. Bull.*

L. M. C. (Woodbridge).—It is useless to think of emigrating to New Zealand unless you have a fair sum of money. New Zealanders resent the intrusion of impecunious strangers—in fact, they won't admit them. Besides, they have female suffrage in New Zealand.

C. M. (Cardiff).—The verbal statement of the father that he would repay the amount you are out of pocket through standing surety for his son is not sufficient to render him legally liable. You can sue the son only. Don't be so ready to guarantee a stranger's debts in future.

G. C. (West Ham).—They have been trying to have you on the ancient and well-known "Spanish Prisoner" trick, that is all. You would not have thought the Spanish were so fly, would you?

C. C. P. (East Sheen).—If your husband has been guilty of misconduct and has deserted you for two years or more, you are entitled to a divorce, but it is an expensive process. You cannot sue in *forma pauperis* unless you can find a solicitor who will act without payment, and such are almost non-existent. We expect the law will be amended shortly, and then relief will be within your reach.

"DUPED" (Newport).—The "dental gentleman" you mention may, as you say, be "a rogue and a twister"—at any rate, he succeeded in twisting £11 out of you, and doubtless several teeth as well. However, you can sue him on the agreement any time within six years if you can find him.

"NEWTON-STEWART" (N.B.) asks us to let her know the right way to hang up a horseshoe for good luck. Toe downwards. If good luck does not result, reverse the horseshoe.

S. B. S. (Near East) has sent us a long poem entitled "The Lieutenant's Lament." We found it moving. We have instructed the office boy to re-move it.

"ANGLO-INDIAN" (Peaslake) writes: "Will you kindly tell me the origin of the Black Hole of Calcutta?" Certainly not. Why should we take the bread out of the mouth of preparatory school mistresses?

"CONSTANT READER" (Warwick).—Next time you write us, please have the courage to sign your name and address.

F. W. (Holloway), who has been rather scurvily treated by the L.C.C. in respect to an old motor-car which he bought for a song, not for the purpose of personal use, but with the idea of repairing it and selling it again (he was fined £4 15s. for being without a licence), concludes his letter by saying: "When the Germans come shall I shoulder a rifle and fight for my country? I don't think so. I shall say, 'Send the lazy horde of permanent officials with which we are cursed, and see if they are as active in risking their skins as they are in persecuting poor little devils like me.'" We trow not.

M. R. G. (Hessle).—Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart-rope.

E. J. K. (Chiswick).—There is probably some misunderstanding between you. Go and see her. Or you can sue her for the difference.

F. S. (S. Tottenham).—It is fast becoming obvious that the early closing provisions of the Shops Act are a farrago of nonsense, disastrous in their effects upon thousands of tradesmen. What puzzles us is that the shopkeepers do not combine to resist the ruinous tyranny. It is useless to come crying to us. Surely the community of shopkeepers is numerous and strong enough to stand up for itself.

C. R. (Lomas de Zamora) sends us a copy of a long rigmarole he addressed to the First Lord of the Admiralty as a plea for unity among nations and to which—strange to say—he received no reply! Lazy Mr. Churchill!

"CARPENTER" (Hither Green).—You and your mates should lay the grievance before the A.S.R.S.

"OLD SUBSCRIBER" (Stoke-on-Trent).—The next bottle of the baldness lotion you purchase you had better drink and see if that will make your hair grow.

"ROUND TABLE" (London) says that the aggregate stroke of the aggregate whip brought to bear on horseflesh in a single day would cut ten Dreadnoughts in two. What a lucky thing it is that they are not all given at once.

"HEIR" (Brighton) asks us to find £10,000 his grandmother said he could have when she died. Where is she buried?

"A SLAVE" (Luton) says Lloyd George has forced him to make a contract against his will. We assume it to be all over the stamp-licking business. Better sue him and have the contract set aside!

A. E. B. (Welling).—You have the soul of a poet, otherwise you would never have been able to write that deathless quatrain concerning JOHN BULL: "It tells of the good folk, it tells of the bad, It's the very best pennorth that ever was had, Prosperity shine on your fine fearless book, And now if you please I will just take my hook." May you catch plenty of fish.

D. B. (Bradford).—The cold feet curers duly received. But we don't suffer from cold feet.

"READER" (Plaistow) says inspectors of foods and drugs drink with the big dairymen and are down on the small man. But the question arises, *what* do they drink? The "sampling" may be merely part of their duties.

F. B. R. (Edinburgh) declares that his bicycle tyre has been maliciously destroyed by a fellow-workman, but that he can get no redress or compensation for the damage. He might adopt the vengeance taken by an irate husband who found his wife flirting with the lodger—drink his enemy's beer.

F. H. B. (Swansea).—The fact that you were under age at the time you signed the agreement would not necessarily invalidate it, as in contracts for labour the question has always been whether such contract, when carefully examined in all its terms, is for the benefit of the infant. If so, the Court will not allow the infant to repudiate it. We have often dealt with the legal aspect of the "radius clause," and must refer you to our back numbers.

"RELWOF" (Dudley).—As the summons was issued, you are liable for the costs, notwithstanding that it was not served. Although the firm accepted the instalment you sent, they are not obliged to take the balance in the same way, but if you see them you will no doubt be able to come to a satisfactory arrangement.

G. H. (Shagari).—Never destroy the counterfoil of a postal order, and never part with one unless you have previously filled it in. The P.M.G. repudiates all liability if his instructions are not carried out.

D.A.M. (Birmingham).—Writing over these impressive initials, a correspondent rails bitterly against the Insurance Act, and seems inclined to blame poor innocent us for it. "We were told that there was a way out of this damned Insurance tax," she exclaims. Yes, *she*, gentle readers. Forcible writers, these Birmingham ladies, when their hair is out of curl.

(A large number of replies are held over.)

"Bullets" the STRAIGHT Competition with most Prizes. See page 254.

John Bull League Notes.

(By the General Secretary.)

MANCHESTER.—Of course, the principal theme of discussion and interest at the moment is the President's forthcoming meeting, particulars of which will be found on page 221. The Free Trade Hall is about twice the size of the Birmingham Town Hall, but from all appearances the situation on the night of the meeting will be the same—eager crowds waiting for admission and thousands turned away. However, to prevent, as far as possible, disappointment to the general public, I am limiting the distribution of reserved seats, so that there will be accommodation for several thousands when the doors open. Mr. Henry Walker will be the organist.

BIRMINGHAM.—The President's recent meeting is still the talk of the town. Although largely ignored by the local press, the theme is on everyone's lips. Each post brings me letters of congratulation. Here is one of them, from a prominent business man:—"I know that your chief is a great admirer of Charles Bradlaugh, so will you kindly tell him that never since I last heard that great man speak from the same platform, more than twenty years ago, have I listened to anything so convincing, so cogent and so palpably honest."

LEEDS.—Don't forget the Annual General Meeting of this Branch to-night (Thursday) at the Grand Central Hotel. An excellent programme has been arranged. Mr. Reginald Knight, a popular figure in Leeds, will occupy the chair.

GLASGOW.—The President's historic meeting at the St. Andrew's Hall nearly three years ago still lingers in the memories of his many admirers in the second city of the Kingdom, and it looks as if an overflow meeting *must* be arranged. The following members of the local executive will be pleased to supply tickets upon receipt of a stamped addressed envelope. Messrs. H. McCone, 1222, Springburn Road; D. McLean, 8, South Chester Street, Shettleston; D. Millar, 28, Govanhill Street; J. Fenner, 418, West Muir Street, Parkhead, and W. Lewis, 13, Broad Street, Mile End. I shall arrive in the city on the 17th inst., when my address will be the George Hotel, Buchanan Street. Mr. McCone requires a few more volunteers to act as stewards.

The John Bull League.

OBJECTS: To Stamp out Cant and Self-Righteousness; to abolish Cranks and Killjoys; to Create a Robust and Self-reliant Public Opinion; and to Promote a Common Sense Business Government for a Common Sense Business People.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

The General Secretary,
93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

Please enrol me as a Member and send me a Membership Badge, for which I enclose P.O. for 6d.

Name .....

Address .....

.....

BUCHANAN'S

"BLACK & WHITE"

AND

"RED SEAL"

Always the Highest Quality.

6/-

Where are you going to?

By ELIZABETH ROBINS.

TIMES: "A burning tract for the times written with the insight, and skill and with the restraint of a brilliant novelist."

D. MAIL: "The strongest novel with a purpose we have read these many years . . . will stir public feeling to its depths on the gravest of all social questions."

WM. HEINEMANN, 21, Bedford Street, W.C.

WALLPAPERS

FINEST SELECTION IN THE KINGDOM.

Send for our complete pattern book—the most artistic and modern collection of wallpapers obtainable—and the LOWEST PRICES in the trade.

270 designs to select from, including a splendid selection of borders and friezes to match.

PRICES FROM 2½d. to 2/6 per roll.

Pattern Books sent post free.

DECORATORS' STORES (DEPT. 27), Lytham Road, Blackpool.

PILES A cure guaranteed by this wonderful discovery of Nature's remedy, which attacks the root of the evil. (No temporary ointment relief. Safe with delicate constitutions, and free from drugs or minerals. "Just a simple remedy," efficacious or money returned.

PYLO Co., 36 and 37, Cock Lane, London.

Brainine

The ONLY CURE FOR BRAIN FAG, NERVES, etc.

Brainine Company, 2, Marsham Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

POSITIONS ABROAD.

Those desiring information re passage-paid appointments in Argentina, East and West Africa, India and other countries should write for particulars of our arrangements, terms and clients' successes. Messrs. Cputts, Colonial Agents (Dept 2), 226, High Holborn, London.

Don't "wait and see" if that cold is coming—

Give her BOVRIL

Our Pension Prize GUARANTEED at LLOYD'S!

£6 A WEEK FOR LIFE

We offer two distinct Record Cash Prizes in another Football Skill Competition—a FIRST PENSION PRIZE of £6 a week for Life, which we have guaranteed at Lloyd's at considerable expense, and a SECOND PRIZE of £600 cash down. All you have to do is to forecast the results of the League Games to be played on Saturday, March 1st, given on the Entrance Form on the inside of front cover. Draw your pen plainly through the name of the team you think will lose. If you predict a draw do not cross out either team.

We make no restrictive conditions, and

ABANDONED MATCHES WILL MAKE NO DIFFERENCE!

To the Competitor who sends us an entrance form containing a correct forecast of all the matches played to a finish—even if the number be only 10 or 12—we shall award the first prize of £6 a week for Life.

In addition to the £6 a Week for Life we shall also award a Second Prize of the huge sum of

£600 IN CASH

to the competitor whose entrance form contains the next most correct forecasts. To make it quite clear. The competitor succeeding in correctly forecasting the results of all the matches played to a finish will receive £6 a Week for Life.

AND

£600

This Time

TWO DISTINCT PRIZES.

GUARANTEED AT LLOYD'S.

In addition we shall still award £600 to the competitor whose coupon contains most correct forecasts, short of the full number of results. In any event, £600 MUST be won.

You can send in as many entries as you like, and any number of entries may be enclosed in the same envelope.

Friends can send their entries together in one envelope, but every coupon must be signed in ink by its respective sender.

Ladies are invited to enter this competition.

Our system of checking the Entrance Forms of Competitors is as perfect as human ingenuity can make it. Fraud is rendered absolutely impossible, whilst all risk of a coupon being overlooked is, by our elaborate arrangements, totally eliminated.

Study the form of the clubs named, exercise your skill and

SEND IN YOUR ENTRIES NOW.

Read These Rules Carefully.

1. On the Entrance Form on the inside of front cover, cross out in ink, by running a pen through the names, the teams you think will lose. If you predict a DRAW do not cross out either team.

2. Having done this, write in ink (typewriting or pencilling will not do) your name and address in the space provided, cut out the Entrance Form, and address it to "JOHN BULL," Pension Prize Competition, 25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C., so as to reach us not later than first post Friday, February 28th, but please send early to facilitate the work of examination.

3. The First Prize of £6 a week for Life (Guaranteed at Lloyd's) will be awarded to the competitor whose Entry Form contains the correct results, as published in the *Sporting Life*, of all the matches given played to a finish on March 1st; and the Second Prize of £600 in cash will be awarded to the competitor whose coupon gives the next most correct forecasts. In any event the £600 must be won.

4. No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any effort, and no correspondence will be entered into, neither will interviews be granted. But the utmost care will be taken of all coupons received. Individual competitors may send in as many entries as they wish, and any number of entries may be enclosed in the same envelope. Friends may send their entries together in one envelope.

5. The Editor's published decision on all matters relating to this competition is final and legally binding, and competitors may enter only on this understanding.

6. Any effort on which any alteration of any description has been made will be disqualified. Entrance Forms must be cut not torn out.

7. In the event of a tie or ties in this competition the First Prize of £6 a week for Life and the Second Prize of £600 will be equally divided.

THE CLOSING DATE IS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28th.

No Goals Required.

Important.

The match between Leicester Fosse and Fulham (down for decision on Saturday, March 1) having been brought forward and already played, our competition has been made even more simple, forecasts now being required of

Only 19 Matches.

The Leicester Fosse and Fulham match has been omitted this week, and will be ignored in last week's coupon.

No ENTRANCE FEE.

It having come to our knowledge that the coupons have been cut from JOHN BULL and that the mutilated papers have afterwards been sold, to prevent this fraud

THE COUPON WILL BE FOUND ON THE INSIDE OF FRONT COVER.

You can send in as many coupons as you like.

After you have filled up your entries for this competition turn to page 254, where you will find particulars of "Bullets," a simple and attractive Competition which you should not fail to enter. A first prize of £400 in cash is awarded this week, in addition to more than 5,000 cash and other prizes to the value of £1,705.

CITY NOTES.

[*For Financial and Insurance Letter Box, see page 252.*]

The Stock Markets.

With the exception of some gambling in the Mining markets, business on the Stock Exchange has been very quiet, partly because the end of the war in the Near East is being awaited, and partly because money is tight, owing to Revenue collections and hoarding of gold on the Continent. The underwriters of new issues are, moreover, stuck with a large portion of the stocks not taken up by the public. Amongst Mines a lively gamble has been proceeding in Ropp Mines, which have been unduly hoisted, and should be left alone, but this flare up has brought into notice other Nigerian Tin Mines, which are producing and are at low prices still. West Australians are firming up, and Kaffirs are marking time, awaiting peace in the Near East, as do, in fact, all the markets. A number of new Cobalt Silver Companies are being floated at a heavy premium, and, therefore, not giving the public a chance. Oil shares are firmer, but the reason of the rise in Shell Transports and Mexican Eagles has not so far been disclosed. In Rubber shares young producers are in request, while the fashionable speculative shares are still somewhat out in the cold. Home Rails were benefited by excellent dividends, but have also calmed down again, although eventually, and in the absence of strikes, they should go to a higher level. The Yankee market is being kept back by fears of more drastic proceedings against the Trust Companies, and in the matter of tariff revision, when the new President comes in. Trunks have improved on a good dividend, the full distribution on the Thirds not being now far off, but Canadian Pacifics are marking time. Another revolution in Mexico unfortunately threatens a good many British interests there.

The Houlder Line.

The ordinary meeting of this company was held on Friday, and consisted of an audience of twenty-one persons, many of whom were in the employment of the company. We congratulate the shareholders on the meeting being held so early, instead of, as has usually been the case, towards the end of the year. We have always said that until the old board was cleared out little progress would be made, and Messrs. Furness, Withy and Co. deserve all credit for having pulled the company out of the mire. But although the trading profits for the year amount to £93,478, the company is still in debt to the sum of £460,737, and the unpaid cumulative preference dividend amounts to £103,175, so that it must be a long time before the ordinary shareholders can expect a dividend—which they have not received for ten years. The meeting was of the customary back-scratching and complimentary order, our old familiar friend, Sir Fortescue Flannery (a trustee for the debenture holders) being present to support the directors. But he should have known the Articles of Association better than to have suggested that £600 should be voted to the six directors. He forgot that, apart from £100—an incubus on the company left over by the Remount scandal of the South African War—the directors of Houlder Brothers, who are also directors of the Houlder Line, must act without remuneration, the reason being that Houlder Brothers draw huge commissions for working the Line, and, in our opinion, it would have been more candid if the chairman had mentioned this fact rather than have made a virtue of necessity. By the way, was the hurry to get the meeting over accounted for by the fact that Houlder Brothers' accounts show such enormous profits this year that it might have caused unpleasant criticism on the part of the Houlder Line shareholders had the figures been before them?

Kettle "Sings Out."

The revelations made at his recent public examination by William Alfred Shepherd Kettle as to the constitution and dealings of Arthur Williams and Co., "bankers," may have come as a surprise to the general public. They certainly should not have astonished our readers. As we have already stated, we have in our possession the whole history of this wretched swindle and of Morris Berlyn Jacobs, *alias* Joseph Morris, seeing that "Arthur Williams and Co." brought an action for libel against us, which they soon dropped when they knew the extent of our information concerning them. What we are unable to understand is how it comes about that this man Jacobs has not been brought to book again. He did "time" some years ago for blackmailing the late Marcus Bebro; and his exploits since, in connection with the Bank of Egypt failure, the London and Colonial Bank, the *Investors' Record*, the Eclipse Assurance Corporation, and a turf-touting business—to mention only a few of his activities—should certainly have earned for him a further spell of imprisonment. However, we live in hopes.

"A Tin Pot City."

Apropos of our recent reference to New Westminster, B.C., as a "tin pot city," we are assured by the Publicity Commissioner that the town is "thriving in every way and is probably the most English in this continent." Indeed, so great is the Commissioner's enthusiasm that he tells us that "it is a replica of Devonshire in all characteristics," adding that as he writes there are "a few roses still in bloom in the open, and our winter will probably last three to five weeks only." That Commissioner earns his salary!

Pearl Life Assurance Co.

In a recent issue we replied to an enquiry from a collector of the Pearl Assurance Co., who wrote to us under the nom de plume of "Faked, Bilston," relating to making good decrease of debit. We have now received a manifesto from the Bilston staff signed by 27 of them, in which they deny that any one of them has such a grievance against the company, or that they have any knowledge or connection with the writer. On referring to our correspondent's letter we find that from the address given he does not reside in Bilston, though he selected the nom de plume to which we have referred.

Wm. Harrold & Co.

From time to time complaints reach us in regard to these people, who carry on business as Outside Brokers dealing in Call Options on American Rails, etc., at Moorgate Chambers, Finsbury Pavement, E.C., and we were recently instrumental in obtaining for a reader payment of an account due to him by placing the facts before a well-known firm of City solicitors. Legal proceedings being threatened, Harrold (who apparently constitutes the firm) paid the relatively small amount claimed, and from the statements which he made to the solicitors it was apparent that his finances were in an exceedingly strained condition. Nevertheless he is still carrying on business, and from the correspondence before us clients are experiencing difficulty in obtaining a settlement of their accounts.

NEW ISSUES.

The principal feature has been the issue of 240,000 new shares by the *Broken Hill Proprietary Company*. The shares are of the nominal value of 8s. each, and the issue price is £2—a premium of 400 per cent. Of course, the concern is a very flourishing one, but it is possible to pay too much for a good thing. The *Entre Rios Railways Company*, with an issued share capital of about four and a half millions, has been offering £750,000 of five per cent. debenture stock, ranking behind two other sets of debentures. The profits of the concern do not leave much margin over the amount required for interest, but there is a guarantee of minimum dividends by the Argentine Railway Company. We do not recommend the investment. The *London and South American Investment Trust* is a new concern formed to exploit the undeveloped "agricultural and other resources" of South America. The directorate is respectable and solid, but the business is entirely in the air, and should be left to those who understand it. The *Hydraulic Power and Smelting Company* is a "holding" concern, controlling the shares of three companies with unpronounceable names in either Norway or Sweden, or both, and all of which, apparently, want more capital. Hence the present issue of debentures. It is not an investment which we commend to the British public. *Miol, Ltd.*, is a small concern formed to work a patent fool preparation, and should be left to the trade. *Montgomery, Ward and Company* is an American offer of preference stock which should not be touched at any price. The company carries on a mail order business, which, however prosperous at the moment, may be lost at any time. The *F.M.S. Rubber Planters Estates* is a new rubber company, formed to acquire an estate in the Federated Malay States. A fair amount of planting has been done, and the surroundings of the concern are respectable.

Two distinct Prizes for Footbal[illegible] £6 a Week for Life and £600 Cash. See page 249.

THE CONSOLIDATED OIL FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.,

has recently been formed, with a capital of £250,000 divided into shares of £1 each, for the purpose of seriously exploiting, for the first time, the Oil lands of South Africa.

The Company has provided for a working capital of £50,000, and has acquired exclusive rights for working Oil and all other Minerals, for a period of ten years, over 150 square miles in the Ceres district, Cape Province—together with the option of acquiring the freehold of the properties at any time during that period.

Eminent Oil experts have certified to the petroliferous character of the ground.

Mr. Wm. W. Van Ness, for instance, says: "All these farms showed marked indications of the existence of Petroleum. On none did I find any indication of the strata being disturbed by the intrusive action of any igneous rock. Contraction has caused a folding of the strata from West to East, forming a series of synclines and anticlines, the troughs and ridges of which trend North and South. On farm Wagonsboom River, the lay of the strata is favourable to the accumulation of Oil in large quantities. The formation is almost identical with the great Oil-producing fields of Alleghany, McKean, Warren and Venango Counties, Pennsylvania. I have no hesitation in recommending you to sink a well on farm Wagonsboom River. A pipe line could be constructed, over a natural gradient, to reach Cape Town from this farm within 100 miles."

Mr. Frank L. Chapman says: "The synclinal and anticlinal formation is very marked and regular, and nowhere did I find the slightest sign of any intrusive basaltic dykes or sheets, or the evidence of any igneous or eruptive action having taken place. The presence of the 'Rainbow Flake' so persistently and over such a large area, is an all-sufficient reason for putting down a well in this locality. I consider the natural gas proof positive of the existence of Petroleum below, this being undoubtedly Petroleum gas, and not mere marsh gas. The formation of the country corresponds to that of the Oil regions of Pennsylvania and Ohio. Were this ground, as it now is, with merely the indications to go upon, in the States it would be split up into hundreds of lots, and would realise from £80 to £100 per acre, going to £500 per acre as soon as the first barrel of Oil had been produced."

THIS WOULD MAKE EACH £1 SHARE IN THE COMPANY WORTH £200.

Mr. Moris Mencher states: "I am convinced, after my examination of the country, that Oil exists in large quantities in the district of Ceres."

Mr. J. E. Mills Davies, referring to the iridescent films seen in the district, states that he investigated the question fully, with the result that he was satisfied that "their origin from hydrocarbon gaseous or oily compounds derived from Petroleum is a matter that cannot be doubted."

Mr. H. G. Hubbard states: "I collected some of the iridescent film and tested it. From the results given I unhesitatingly pronounce this film to be the result of condensation of the lighter bodies contained in the Petroleum, which escape in the form of gas. I am perfectly certain that these rainbow-coloured films are produced by Petroleum and nothing else."

Mr. W. Gasson, in concluding a "Report on Samples of Water and Deposit from Ceres District with regard to their bearing Petroleum or indications," says:—"The results of this examination clearly indicate that these samples are from Petroleum springs."

It will be seen that the Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa, Limited, is embarking upon an enterprise of an altogether exceptional character, and that it may easily become one of the richest corporations in the world.

Full particulars of the Company may be obtained from the South African Petroleum Exploration Syndicate, Limited, 80, Coleman Street, London, E.C.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE LETTER-BOX.

Letters containing enquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 52, New Broad Street, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

A Postal Order for 1s. must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

AUTO CARRIERS, LTD.—A REGULAR READER.—There is no regular market in these shares, and your only course is to endeavour to sell them through the channel in question. You have no option but to pay up the call.

INDUSTRIALS.—SANTO.—The concern has now quite dropped out, and there is no price for the shares.

GAS COMPANIES.—P. E. L. (Bowes Park).—Very little information is available as regards either of these obscure Gas Companies, and they have not yet paid a dividend. We do not think much of their prospects; but you cannot sell the shares in the ordinary way, as there is no market.——GASEOUS.—It is obvious that the proposed innovation cannot do the Company any good, but we are unable to tell you if you would have to sell your stock out at a loss, as it is not quoted here. Your best course would be to apply to a stockbroker in Bristol or Bath, and ascertain whether he could find a buyer.

TWO INVESTMENTS.—F. H. H. (Tunbridge Wells).—No. 1 is a fair second-rate investment, but there is no regular quotation for No. 2, and a purchase is not advisable.

OIL AND GENERAL SHARE EXCHANGE.—F. B. (Stourbridge).—As stated in reply to a correspondent last week, this is a very respectable firm, which we are sure will duly fulfil its obligations.

CONSOLIDATED OIL FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA.—E. W. (Aberdare).—We have frequently expressed our opinion that these shares are the best speculative purchase on the market.——"CERES."—Quite right; stick to your shares. They should double in value before the year is out.

GOLD MINING DEBS.—FARROW'S BANK.—H. W. M. (Brighton).—These so-called debentures are being hawked all over the country with a perseverance worthy of a better cause. We do not advise you to take any of them up. You can safely open an account with Farrow's Bank, which is a well-managed and sound institution.

OIL SHARES.—WAITING (Eccles).—We are still favourable to Maikop Pipeline. The decline is due to the unsatisfactory market conditions. Hold your shares, and you can average. As regards Standard of Mexico, there is now a fair prospect of the striking of oil in the near future, which would of course be a most important "Bull" point.

NEW BERCA PETROLEUM.—A. B. (Howth).—We are unable to trace this concern and there is no market in the shares. You say the directors are Messrs. A. H. Synge and J. O. Lawson Johnstone. Perhaps they can enlighten you.

DAKOTA, KANSAS AND GULF RAILWAY.—C. W. P. (Kent).—There is no market here in the Bonds, and we do not advise a purchase. You can do much better in other directions.

FOREIGN WATER SHARES.—W. T. (Nottingham).—The shares in question do not in any way fulfil your requirements, and there is very little market in them. We do not advise a purchase for permanent investment. You can do much better in, say, Colonial Government Bonds.

OBSCURE BANK.—E. H. M. (Charlton).—We do not advise placing money on deposit with this bank, even although it offers a somewhat higher rate of interest. Safety should be your first consideration. There is no acknowledged connection between the concern and the institution you mention.

RUBBER SHARE TRUST AND FINANCE.—RUBBER TRUST.—There is no quotation for these Options, and their value depends upon the course of prices of the shares, and whether by the time in question the quotation will have reached a level to make it worth while exercising the Options. The present quotation is par—viz., 10s.

GALICIAN STANDARD OIL.—E. S. (Murrayfield).—We are not responsible for the opinions expressed by our contemporaries. We have frequently stated that we think well of the prospects of the undertaking.

NORWICH UNION LIFE ASSURANCE CO.—J. C. J. (St. Lawrence).—We agree that you should get the age admitted by the Society and so endorsed on the policy. As you describe the policy, it would appear to be in order. If it is issued for a term of 15 years only you are under no obligation to make premium payments beyond that period. If you care to send us the policy for inspection, we will advise definitely on this point. It is important that you should be kept informed as regards the place of abode of the assured.

DOCKERS' UNION.—F. H. (Preston).—Any contributions in arrear within the period of grace allowed are deducted from the amount of the claim. Whether the contributions in arrear exceed the time limit is a matter determined by the rules, to which refer. Under the Friendly Societies Act statutory notice of lapsing must be given. Take up this point with the Union, and if you should fail to obtain satisfaction, communicate with us again.

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE CO.—SURRENDER (Bradford).—The Company may claim that the policy is null and void, owing to the premiums having remained unpaid for so many months. We advise you, however, not to submit to the forfeiture of ten years' premium payments, but to consult a solicitor.——E. H. (Hastings).—As the proposer, you have been paying premiums which do not give you a legal title to the assurance, the policy having been issued in the name of your aunt direct and without her knowledge. Consult a solicitor.

LIFE POLICIES.—HENRY.—Absence of knowledge on the part of the assured does not necessarily invalidate a policy. Judging by the particulars you give us, we should say that your sister was the legal claimant in both the instances mentioned, and the payment of the claims to her in person was quite regular.

MODERN PERMANENT BUILDING SOCIETY OF WOOLWICH.—W. M. (Brockley).—We observe that notice of withdrawal having been given as advised, you are now told that in consequence of the Society having obtained a somewhat large loan from a bank, the deposit cannot be repaid until the loan is paid off. You wish to know what steps should be taken to compel repayment of part of the whole of the £500 deposit. We are unable to say without referring to the rules relating to the withdrawal of deposits. You had better obtain and study these, and if they should fail to satisfy you, communicate with us again.

WEST SURREY BENEFIT SOCIETY.—CONSTANT READER.—We note your complaint, that you have been unable to obtain this Society's balance-sheet for the past two years. The Society is bound to supply this, and it commits an offence under section 84 (2) of the Friendly Societies Act if it does not do so. Apparently the annual returns have been lodged with the Registrar, and we are at a loss to understand why your request is not complied with, although we observe one reason assigned for the delay is owing to application having been made to get the Society recognised as an "Approved Society." Now that we have directed public attention to the matter we trust the management will forthwith carry out what is an obvious duty, and that you will have no occasion to complain further.

MARINE AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—REB.—This Company transacts a moderate amount of new Life business annually, but there are other more progressive and profitable offices from the standpoint of the assured. The Society was established in 1852, and may be relied on to fulfil its engagement to policy-holders.

NATIONAL OLD AGE PENSION TRUST.—H. M'C. (Stranraer) states that two friends of his, having paid in the full amount, expected they would have now received their pension, and asks what we think of it. We must refer him to the "City Notes" in recent issues.

CITY LIFE ASSURANCE CO.—W. J. B. (Burton-on-Trent).—You may safely hold the Endowment House Purchase Certificate you have recently purchased. The liability to certificate-holders is ascertained annually by an actuary of high standing, and such liability is covered by the deposit of mortgage securities with trustees. The certificate-holders, therefore, are protected under this system by a special fund which is set apart for their exclusive benefit.

PEARL LIFE ASSURANCE CO.—H. C. (Hackney).—Your son met with an accident which unfortunately caused his death, the jury at the inquest returning a verdict of accidental death. He was insured with this Company for £9 18s., and you say after some little trouble you have received from them only £4 18s., and are unable to get more although you have made repeated applications. On the face of your statement, we find no reason which would justify the Company in refusing to meet the whole amount of the claim, and you had better instruct a solicitor to take the matter up.——GEE GEE (Stockwell).—Your wife insured the life of her father, and at the time of her death had paid in premiums £10 1s. 8d. Subsequently you continued the premium payments and have contributed £15 9s. You have explained your case to the Company, who have declined to meet you in any way. Was the policy assigned to you at the time of your wife's death, thereby giving you a legal title? If not, you have been paying premiums for which you cannot claim any consideration, and in our opinion they are recoverable. Consult a solicitor.

PLANET FRIENDLY ASSURANCE COLLECTING SOCIETY.—H. C. (Britain Ferry).—The misstatement in the proposal form invalidates the policy. The error may have arisen unintentionally, but you vouched for the truth of the answers given, and, even assuming that the fault was due to the negligence of the agent, the Society could successfully plead that, in filling in the answers, he acted as your agent and not as theirs. In all the circumstances we should advise you to accept the Society's offer to return all the premiums paid. This we consider would be treating you liberally, as the Society is under no legal obligation to pay anything.

WOOLWICH EQUITABLE BUILDING SOCIETY.—A. A. C. (Bromley).—It is probably sound enough and among the best of its class. We do not, however, as a general rule favour investment in Building Societies, and cannot advise you to withdraw your savings from the Post Office for the purpose of taking up shares in this concern. If, however, you should decide to do so, first make yourself fully acquainted with the conditions relating to withdrawals.

PROPERTY INSURANCE CO.—S. B. (Burton).—You will be quite safe in taking out a fire policy with this office.

GRESHAM LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.—INTENDING PROPOSER.—A perfectly sound and well-managed Company. You need have no hesitation in taking out a policy.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE CO.—E. S. (Stockport).—You cannot claim a cash surrender on your children's policies, and must accept the Company's offer of free policies.——H. M. A. (Hornsey).—You cannot demand a cash surrender on any of the policies, but the superintendent of your district could obtain it for you if he would.——R. G. (Leith).—The surrender value is a fair one.——J. McI. (Bonhill).—On the oldest policy you could obtain a free policy for £3 13s., and on the second one a free policy for £3 3s. That is, if you pay until October 2. These amounts are payable at death. You cannot claim any money.——A. E. P. (Marylebone).—If you have paid up to November 19, 1912, you can demand a Free policy for £3. This amount would be payable at your death, or at the end of fifteen years from the date of the policy you now hold. We advise you to adopt that course.——F. B. (King's Cross).—The policies appear to be legal, but those on the lives of your married daughters belong to their husbands, and, in the event of death, you could not claim. The company would grant small Free Policies, but you cannot obtain these without the signatures and consent of your daughters, and even then they would be the property of their husbands.

(A number of replies are held over.)

Every "Bullet" Coupon is READ TWICE, Slowly and with Care.

3,000 CURES IN TEN MONTHS.

This is the record of my new Three-fold Absorption Treatment which is guaranteed to cure all forms of

PILES.

MY FREE OFFER.

Every person cutting out and sending me the coupon below at once will get—Free to try—my complete new 3-fold Absorption Cure for Piles, Ulcer, Fissure, Prolapse, Tumours, Constipation, and all rectal troubles. If you are fully satisfied with the benefit received you

GILES W. VAN VLECK (*front photo*).

can send me 4/6. If not, you have only to say so, and it costs you nothing: you decide after a thorough trial. This wonderful Absorption Treatment, which I am offering free, is even curing cases of 30 and 40 years' standing, as well as all the earlier stages. Act now, and save yourself untold suffering, for piles lead to fistula and the deadly cancer. My three-fold treatment cures to stay cured, because it is constitutional as well as local, and I want you to try it at my expense.

FREE 4/6 COUPON.

Entitling anyone with Piles to receive, prepaid, Free to Try, a regular 4/6 Package of Dr. Van Vleck's three-fold Absorption Treatment, together with my valuable New Book in colours (in plain wrapper).

Name .....

Address .....

Only one trial packet to one address. MN15

Send no money—just the coupon to GILES W. VAN VLECK, MN15, Bangor House, Shoe Lane, London, E.C. Write to-day.

IS IT DIFFICULT TO LEARN GERMAN?

NO; but to most people the thought of learning German produces a feeling akin to that which one experiences before taking a cold plunge. Yet, after all, whether learning German is a hard task or a pleasant occupation depends wholly upon the method of teaching. Here is an interesting letter on the subject from the Headmaster of a large Secondary College:

Oxford, 16th September, 1912.

"I gladly testify on behalf of the I.C.S. method of teaching Modern Languages - both *eye* and *ear* are simultaneously trained by means of the phonograph method, and one finds invariably that the *voice* instinctively reproduces the words seen and heard.

"I had had only six of the conversation lessons when I set out for a holiday in Germany two years ago, and really I experienced no difficulty in making my way along the Rhine and through Switzerland. During my holiday abroad I was several times mistaken for a German, and this naturally led to an explanation of *how* I had acquired my pronunciation.

"As my registered number does not convey to an outsider any idea of my position, I may state that I have taught for more than fifteen years, and for over four years I have held the Headship of a large Secondary College."

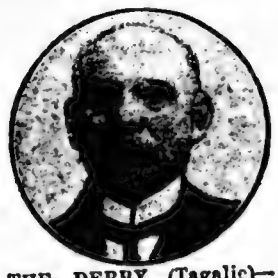
STUDENT LB, 35503.

There must be many readers of JOHN BULL desirous of ascertaining more about the unique method of language learning referred to in the above letter. An interesting booklet on the whole subject is sent free on application to the International Correspondence Schools, Ltd., 48b, International Buildings, Kingsway, W.C. The booklet deals with German, French, Spanish, Italian, and also contains the history of the wonderfully successful International Correspondence Schools. This is the well-known institution which has brought correspondence training to an advanced point of efficiency and success, the 180 different I.C.S. Courses including all branches of Engineering, Business Training, Advertising, Architecture, Poultry Farming, and practically every other profitable occupation.

THE SUCCESSFUL SEVEN OF 1912

GRAND NATIONAL (Jerry M)—BEN AINLEY, 10, Hamilton Street, Old Trafford, Manchester, £500

CAMBRIDGESHIRE (Adam Bede)—W. H. BLACKSHAW, The Lea, Denham, Bucks. £500



THE DERBY (Tagalie)—W. H. COWDERY, The Foresters' Arms, Cox-green, near Maidenhead, Berks £500

CESAREWITCH (Warlingham)—H. COLCHIN, Junr., Woolpack, Iwade, Sittingbourne, Kent, £500

STEWARD'S CUP (Golden Rod)—T. PHILLIPS, 34, The Park, Treharris, Glam. £500

THE LEGER (Tracery)—F. Smith, 241, High Street, Porth, Glam. £500

NOVEMBER HANDICAP (Wagstaff) — A. B. WYATT, 3, Palmer Road, Enfield, Middx. £500

EAST OR WEST DIAMOND'S BEST

H. DIAMOND, LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND.

Letter postage 2½d. **Postcards 1d.**

£400 FOR A BULLET!

OUR FIRST PRIZE AGAIN INCREASED!

This week we are increasing our FIRST PRIZE to the huge sum of £400. Our prizes now value the magnificent sum of £1,705.

FIRST PRIZE - - £400

PRIZES VALUE £1,705

SECOND PRIZE - - - - £50
THIRD PRIZE - - - - - £10.
Ten Prizes of £2 10s. each.

A Large Number of £1 and 10s. Prizes,
200 Prizes of 7/6
AND

PRIZES VALUE £1,705

5,000 OTHER VALUABLE PRIZES.

Bullets can only be constructed from any of these 40 Examples:—

STOCKS AND SHARES
WAR AGAIN
GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS
DISAPPEARED
HANGING PICTURES
FORBIDDEN
WELL DONE
FAME AND FORTUNE

LAST LAP
TO-MORROW
BRITISH SOLDIERS
OSCULATION
HUNGER STRIKE
A BIT MIXED
REVENGE
MOST DELIGHTFUL

IN THE SOUP
NEW DOMESTIC
REMNANTS
ELOPING COUPLE
THE PRIME MINISTER
FLIRTING
TOUGH STEAK
GENTLEMAN

CALL AGAIN
LATCHKEY
HEAVY DAMAGES
MAKES ME TIRED
DO NOT
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED
MOST UNUSUAL
INSOMNIA

SOVEREIGN REMEDY
STARS AND STRIPES
SMALL BOY
INDEPENDENCE
WHEN TROUBLE COMES
BRITISH CLIMATE
OUR FOOTBALL OFFER
AUNT JANE

IMPORTANT.

EVERY BULLETS COUPON RECEIVED IS SLOWLY AND CAREFULLY READ BY OUR SPECIAL STAFF OF ADJUDICATORS, AFTER WHICH ALL THE COUPONS ARE READ A SECOND TIME WITH THE SAME TROUBLE AND CARE.

HOW TO MAKE BULLETS.

First choose any of our forty examples. Then give two words or three words having some bearing on the example chosen. The FIRST and LAST word selected MUST begin with ANY OF THE LETTERS in the example chosen. If three words are selected any word can be used as the middle word.

For instance, if you take the example "MOST DELIGHTFUL" and choose the letters "M" and "D," using the word "and" as the middle word, you can form the Bullet, "MOTORING AND DANCING." Or from the example "STARS AND STRIPES," the Bullet "AMERICA'S EMBLEM" can be formed. Again, if you take the example "INSOMNIA," using the letter "A" as initial for both the first and last word, you can form the Bullet, "A TRYING AFFLICTION."

Competitors who have already won any prizes, large or small, in this competition are in no way debarred from winning again.

Competitors can send in two BULLETS on one coupon for sixpence, but if both coupons are used a postal order for one shilling must be sent.

Closing date, Wednesday, Feb. 19th.

Example _____
Bullet _____

Example _____
Bullet _____

(20) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

Signed _____
Address _____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon

Not more than three words may be used to construct a Bullet.

Closing date, Wednesday, Feb. 19th.

Example _____
Bullet _____

Example _____
Bullet _____

(20) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on this page, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding

Signed _____
Address _____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

If Both Coupons Are Used a Postal Order for 1/- Must Be Sent.

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS NO. 20," "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.

The ink will not run if the coupon is slightly warmed before being used.

"BULLETS" RULES (*which must be strictly adhered to*).

1. The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the editor, assisted by a competent staff of adjudicators, is the best Bullet received, and the other prizes in order of merit. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.
2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons on this page, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.
3. Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d., made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed _____ & Co. Competitors must write their names and addresses, and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Stamps will not be accepted.
4. Coupons must not be cut or defaced in any manner, or have portions of another coupon pasted upon them.
5. Entries must reach us not later than the first post on the morning of Wednesday, February 19th.
6. The Editor undertakes that every Bullet reaching him shall receive careful consideration by a competent staff; but the Editor will not hold himself responsible for coupons lost or mislaid.
7. No correspondence can be entered into concerning this competition.
8. The Editor's decision on all matters concerning this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry.

RESULT OF SEVENTEENTH BULLETS COMPETITION.

FIRST PRIZE OF £300:—

Mr. P. MASON,
35, Upperton Road, Leicester.
Example:—TOUGH AND GO.
Bullet:—DRAPERS' LADY CUSTOMERS.

SECOND PRIZE OF £50:—

Mr. C. H. HALES,
298, Balsall Heath Road, Birmingham.
Example:—RUDE AWAKENING.
Bullet:—"INDISPENSABLE" CLERK DISMISSED.

THIRD PRIZE OF £10:—

Mr. J. EMMOTT,
Aldersholes, Thornton, Bradford.
Example:—HUMBLE PIE.
Bullet:—HATEFUL PLATEFUL.

TEN Prizes of £2 10s. awarded as follows:

£2 10s each to:—

C.-Sergt. A. J. TYRRELL, Devon Regt., 3, George Street Barnstaple (UNPLEASANT SURPRISE—IMPERSONATOR MEETS PERSONATED); R. W. BUSH, 3, King's Avenue, Buckhurst Hill, Essex (TOUCH AND GO—TOMMY WASHING NECK); ADELE CAMPBELL, 32, Shaftesbury Road, Ravenscourt Park, W. (OLD AGE—DOZES AND DOSES); H. C. STEVENS, 31, Norman Road, Faversham, Kent (THE PLUMBER—PUTTY HIDES BLUNDERS); R. BRIGHT, The Rest, Dersingham, Norfolk (HUMBLE PIE—EMIGRANT HOMEWARD BOUND); Miss D. MANUS, 1, Romeo Street, Shakespeare Street, Manchester (REGRETTABLE INCIDENT—BRIDGET SCRUBBED REMBRANDT); E. RICKWOOD, Tate Institute, Silvertown, E. (BOARD OF TRADE—AWAITING ANOTHER DISASTER); T. HUGHES, 66, Kildare Street, Middlesbrough (UNPLEASANT SURPRISE, MUSICIAN'S BROTHER UNDERTAKER); E. T. MOFFAT, 3, Church Street, Stanwix, Carlisle (RUDE AWAKENING—WAISTCOAT UNDER NIGHTSHIRT).

£2 10s. divided between the following:

C. MCCARTHY, 69, Glengarty Road, E. Dulwich, S.E. (HALF TIME—A BURGLAR'S LIFE); R. F. ORRIDGE, 87, Upton Park Road, Forest Gate, E. (HALF TIME—INCORRIGIBLE CRIMINAL'S LIFE.)

10 PRIZE WINNERS of £1 EACH.

COUCHMAN, W., 58, Chippenham Road, Paddington, W.
COWAN, G., 41, Guildford Road, Levenshulme, Manchester.
DAVIES, A., Mrs., Havelock House, Llandrindod Wells, C. Wales.
FALCONER, MARY, Mrs., Railway Square, Waterford, Ireland.
HIBBS, E. P., 134, Bute Street, Treherbert, Wales.
HILL, Mrs., 9, Mount Collyer Avenue, Belfast.
HINDS, F., 6, Carlisle Road, Birkdale, Southport.
JOHNSON, F., 4, Ogden Street, Swinton, Manchester.
MAGINNIS, C., 50, Lord Street, Mountpottinger, Belfast.
SLATER, PERCIVAL, Ashville, Farsley, near Leeds.

20 PRIZE WINNERS of 10s. EACH.

ARMITAGE, Mrs. SARA, The Retreat, Lampton Road, Hesston, Middlesex.
BOWEN, A., 3, Philip Street, Cardiff.
BURCH, H. H., 58, Amesbury Avenue, Streatham Hill, S.W.
CAMPBELL, E., Mrs., 14, St. Augustine's Road, Bedford.
GHINNIBURGH, D., 2, Kyle Street, Greenock, Scotland.
GOING, J. A., Junr., 16, Hamlet Road, Southend-on-Sea.
HARPER, MABEL, 123, Strathleven Road, Acre Lane, Brixton, S.W.
HILL, W., 28, Kynaston Road, Thornton Heath, Croydon.
LANGLOIS, H., Lowland, Co ntauchey Rd., Guernsey, C.I.
PAGE, H. F., 233, Malpas Road, Brockley, S.E.
PEATY, A. E., Royal Road, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham.
PETTY, E., The Heights, Armley, Leeds.
PICKTHALL, F., Miss, 106, Lowfield Road, Stockport, Ches.
RICHARDS, R. D., 18, Farrar Road, Bangor, N. Wales.
SIMPSON, S., 8, Ravensburgh Street, Leeds.
SMITH, H., 36, Tiverton Road, Smethwick, Birmingham.
STEELE, R., 51, Mayville Avenue, Scarborough.
STUART, M., Miss, Stanford, Southview Dr., Westcliff-on-Sea.
TAYLOR, G. V., 20, Vernham Road, Plumstead, Kent.
TURNEY, W. C., St. Mawes, Falmouth, Cornwall.

LIST OF 200 PRIZE WINNERS OF 7s. 6d. EACH. "BULLETS" COMPETITION NO. 17.

A selection from the List of 3,000 winners of valuable Prizes can be seen in "Mrs. Bull," dated Feb. 22nd.

Adams, L., L., 24, Estcourt-st., Devizes.
Addison, Mrs., Duncarn, Galashiels.
Allam, T., 9, Whitty-gdns., Southall.
Alexander, A., 7, Orphir-ter., Basing-rd., Peckham.
Allsley, C., 19, Dean-rd., Willesden Green, N.W.
Amour, O., Picturedrome Hall, Rhos-llanerchrugog.
Apland, E., 15, Fitzalan-rd., Handsworth, Sheffield.
Arcampeão, P., 73, Bulmershe-rd., Reading.
Baker, R. W., Barleythorpe, Oakham, Rutland.
Bailey, C. E., 50, Welbeck-st., Wakefield.
Barnes, E., 2, Eastgate-sq., Chichester.
Barrowman, J., 63, Corunne-rd., Battersea.
Beadle, Mrs. E., 2, Brookside Villas, Grange-st., Hull.
Bell, M. L., 48, Willes-rd., Soho, B'ham.
Bellord, R. J. L., 48, Julian-ave., Acton.
Bewsher, Mrs. F., 127, Fletton-ave., Peterborough.
Bingefford, J., 51, Blakeney-rd., Sheffield.
Bitty, Mrs. A. W., Thomas Posting Est., Silver-st., Taunton, Somerset.
Bowker, C., 25, Dixon-st., Stretford-rd., Manchester.
Brown, Nurse W. A., 21, Wyndham-rd., Edgbaston.
Bryce, L., 46, Mildmay-grove, Canonbury.
Bolle, H. F., 35, Caversham-rd., Kentish Town, N.W.
Cadler, Miss F., Industrial-st., Horbury Junct., Wakefield.
Carr, H., 39, Elthorne Park-rd., Hanwell.
Castle, T. J., 264, Trewyddfa-rd., Graig Merriston, Glam.
Brooks, J. C., 37, Clonmel-rd., Fulham.
Brown, G., 1, St. James-ter., Grimsby.
Bulling, E. C., 23, Britannia-rd., Ilford.
Burn, G. H., 100, St. Heliers-rd., Cleethorpes.
Burland, Mrs., 37, Armley-rd., Leeds.
Burnell, E. R., 35, Berkley-cres., Huddersfield.
Burnett, W., 11, Piershill-ter., Edinb'gh.
Burton, A., Glenthorne Arden-rd., Acocks Green, Birmingham.
Carss, Florence, 42, Portland-st., Stepney.
Carter, C. P., 65, Sutherland-rd., Croydon.
Carter, W. H., 26, Approach-rd., Victoria Park, N.E.
Chapman, A., The Green House, High-st., Edgware.
Cherry, F. C., 31, Hertford-rd., Hoddesdon.
Clark, Mrs. M., 7, Southern-rd., Ward End, Birmingham.
Coleman, Miss L., c/o Public School, Yoker, Renfrews.
Collin, C. W., 11, St. John's-rd., Croydon.
Collins, S. M., 43, Lapwing-lane, West Didsbury.
Cook, T., Welton-st., Old Basford, Nottingham.
Cotton, G., 10, Britannia-rd., Worcester.
Cotton, H. F., Lismore, Co. Waterford.
Cowen, F., 11, Quayside, Berwick-on-Tweed.
Craig, W. V., Glendale, Akinside-ter., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Cree, A. M., 28, Junction-rd., Southsea.
Currell, J. W., 33, Queen's-gdns., Brighton.
Curtis, L., School-rd., Totton, Hants.
Daniel, W. R., 71, Mayford-rd., Wandsworth Common, S.W.
Darley, H., 335, Convamore-rd., Grimsby.
Dawson, Mrs. F., 3, Mill Cliffe, Buxton.
Dunlop, H. M., 25, Ct. Edward st., Belfast.
Dyer, C., 14, Mill-st., Victoria-rd., Scarboro'.
Edis, H., 11, Broad-st., Bloomsbury.
Emmons, N., Silvermere, Seaview-rd., Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.
Evans, G. H., 7, Edge-lane, Liverpool.
Fellingham, F., 4, Addison-rd., Brighton.
Fields, W., 2, Marine-grove, Hartley st., Hawthorne-ave., Hull.
Ford, T. V., Moor House Inn, Seaton Burn, Northumberland.
Foster, W. H., Bull Ring, Horncastle.
Flynn, Annie, 2, Henderson-ter., Edinburgh.
Flynn, M., The Battersea Palace, York-rd., S.W.
Fraser, Mrs. M., 12, Hartington-rd., Nichols Town, Southampton.
Frith, F., 355, Togo-ter., Trafford-rd., Barton-on-Irwell.
Gaillard, L., 59a, Oakmead-rd., Balham.
Gall, A., Post Office, Leith, N.B.
Garratt, F. J., 95, Winsover-rd., Spalding.
Gavaghan, T., 76, Bold-st., St. Helens, Lancs.
Gill, W., Lowerhead-row, Leeds.
Glasby, W. G., Master Gunner R.G.A., North Fort, Weymouth.
Glater, T., 261, Wyggeston-st., Burton-on-Trent.
Glover, B. H., 70, Esme-rd., Sparkhill, Birmingham.
Gow, F., 4, Flamboro'-rd., Bridlington.
Grace, W. R., Langhorne, Malmesbury-rd., S. Woodford.
Grant, J., 33, West High-st., Bishopmill, Elgin.
Greatbach, W. E., Ailsbury Arms Hotel, Marlborough.
Greenall, Miss D. G., 41, St. Thomas-rd., Spalding.
Greenhalgh, Miss A., 22, Wapping-st., Bolton, Lancs.
Gregg, T., 2, Lime-grove, Oxford-rd., Manchester.
Grocott, L., 1, Chapel-lane, Blackley Manchester.
Hadgraft, F. H., 32, Wellesley-rd., Ipswich.
Hammond, L., 6, Westbury-rd., Wembley, Middlesex.
Harding, Mrs., 7, Neyland-ter., Neyland, Pembroke.
Harris, G., Richmond-pl., Abergavenny.
Hargreaves, P. B., 40, Dollis-rd., C.E., Finchley, N.
Hatchard, A., 55, Campden House-rd., Kensington.
Heap, R., 49, Hopwood-st., Spring Bank, Hull.
Helsby, C. R., 5, Ormiston-rd., New Brighton.
Herbert, A., 42, Reaston-st., New Cross-rd., S.E.
Hill, G. F. S., Beach Bank, Ulverston, Lancs.
Hill, F., City Fire Brigade Station, Leeds.
Hilliard, H. M., 34, Albert-rd., Penge.
Hillier, Mrs. N., 184, School-rd., Sheffield.
Hoyles, A., Greenhill-lane, Alfreton, Derby.
Hudson, W., 27, South-view, Hapton, Lancs.
Huggett, G. W., 1, French-st., Southampton.
Hughes, T. H., 1, Crown-pl., Harrogate.
Humphrey, Mrs. R., 3, Percival-rd., Inverness.
Hylton, J. C., Boys' School, Ryhope, Sunderland.
Ingram, H. M., 49, Kingsmead-rd., Brixton.
James, Mrs. J., 3, Prospect-pl., Neath, S. Wales.
Johnson, Elizabeth, 12, Bell-st., Church-st., Pendleton.
Jones, W. G., Bryn Erwin, Llanfairfechan.
Jones, J. C., Borrett Stores, Borrett-rd., Walworth.
Jordan, F. E., 156, Church-lane, Tooting Common.
Langridge, C. H., 9, Sanderstead-rd., St. Mary Cray, Kent.
Laurie, P., South-st., Bishop Stortford, Herts.
Lawrence, T. W., Broughton House, Borrowash, nr. Derby.
Lawrie, P., East Linton, Prestonkirk, N.B.
Lee, F. C., 25, Sanderson-rd., Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Lee, H. M., 2, Westfield-st., Leonards-rd., Hythe.
Lee, A., 12, Chilworth-st., Rusholme, Manchester.
Lightburn, R. H., 4, Colson-rd., East Croydon.
Lindsay, J., 36, Garnethill-st., Glasgow.
Logan, J. A., Woodside-st., Coatbridge, N.B.
Lovell, Rose, 89, Bevios-st., Southampt'n.
Mabley, J., 18, Conway-rd., Maindee, Newport, Mon.
Mannock, Miss P., 8, Clavering-ave., Barnes, S.W.
Marks, H., 294, Pershore-rd., B'ham.
Mason, Miss M., 118, Brunshaw-rd., Burnley, Lancs.
Maule, E., 7, Woodhall-ter., Juniper Green, Midlothian.
Moore, H. R., 44, Grosvenor-rd., Rugby.
McLaughlin, Mrs. P., 34, Ann-st., Greenock, N.B.
Meadows, Miss A., Benefield, Oundle, Northants.
Miles, W. A., Parkside, Shaftesbury-ave., Southchurch-on-Sea, Essex.
Miller, J. C., 14, Orion-rd., Rodwell, Weymouth.
Moore, H. B., 22, Windermere-rd., Muswell Hill, N.
Murdoch, R. M., 55, Walton-st., Shawlands, Glasgow.
Murray, Mrs., 58, Reedsworth-st., Kennington-rd., S.E.
Mutteen, J. P., Ravensdene, Church-rd., Urmston, nr. Manchester.
Needham, G., Jun., Market-st., Crewe.
Nias, F. H., Caburn, Mayfield, Sussex.
Norris, Miss F. E., 58, Endwell-rd., Brockley, S.E.
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Parker, G. F., 39, Pickmere-rd., Crookes, Sheffield.
Parks, B., 23, Castle-st., Southport, Lancs.
Paul, Frank, Alverstone, Judge's-walk, Norwich.
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Peace, E. J., Apperley, Blenheim-ter., Scarborough.
Pearce, A., 13, Hyde Park-gdns., W.
Penman, Annie, 21, The Pryors, Hampstead.
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Phillips, E., 54, Shandwick-pl., Edinb'gh.
Pilkington, E., 23, Richmond-st., Thelwall-lane, Warrington.
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Stephenson, Mrs. H. L., 34, Jervis-rd., Fulham, S.W.
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Wilkinson, Eve, 2, Royal-parade, Kew Gardens.
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Racing Notes.

An early market has already been formed on the Lincolnshire and Grand National, some few quotations having been dug up in the Clubs on Thursday afternoon. Two in different ownerships, but both trained by Robinson, at Foxhill, in Eton Boy and Wise Symon, appear at the top of the Lincolnshire list, jointly with White Star, all at 100 to 6. Axle Pin seems the general fancy for the Liverpool, and 100 to 12 was the best offer against him. Rathnally, at 100 to 8, looks tempting, and Caubeen, Carsey, and Covert Coat all figure on the 100 to 7 mark, with Blowpipe, at 20 to 1, the only other quoted.

A reference to the earliest quotations last year would show that backers got on to "the goods" at once, or anyhow that those who fancied they knew something had the best of the argument. On the first day that market quotations were given in the sporting papers, nine horses were quoted for the Lincolnshire. Amongst these was the winner, Long Set, at 100 to 9, and three of the others quoted subsequently ran in the race. Of these three, two, Braxted and Sobieski started at 10 to 1, a slightly better price than was offered early in February, whilst the other, Great Surprise, was far more easily backed on the day of the race than he would have been earlier. For the National Jerry M. opened favourite at 7 to 1, closely followed by Rathnally, at 8 to 1, and as in the end they started joint favourites at 4 to 1, early backers had decidedly the best of the prices.

Prophetic.

At Warwick to-day (Wednesday) the best thing appears to be

MIDAS

for the Chandler Steeplechase. FLYING LORIS can jump hurdles well and possesses speed. So far the heavy going has been against him, but the ground is drying up nicely now, and Hallick's horse should win the County Hurdle. CONGO II. ought to take the Budbrooke Maiden Hurdle. On Thursday the name of MIDAS again appears, in the Barford Steeplechase and, if kept for that, he must not be missed. The Long Distance Hurdle will suit BALLYMAC and if BLOWPIPE be slipped for the Leamington Steeplechase he will be worth an investment, and anyhow his running should be watched.

At Hurst Park on Friday the best thing appears to be

BALLYHIST

for the Park Maiden Steeplechase. STREEP will very nearly win the Maiden Hurdle, and despite the big weight DARK COLLAR, who is at the top of his form, is by no means out of the Mole Hurdle. On Saturday Whitaker looks like winning the Novices' Hurdle, probably with MELEAGER. For the February Hurdle

BRAXTED

represents the best thing of the day., whilst if Gore runs COOLDREEN for the Grange Steeplechase, the Irishman is sure to be on the premises.

SPORTING REPLIES.

CALCUTTA SWEEP.—WOO-WALL.—Tickets can now only be obtained through members of the Calcutta Turf Club.

BOUVERET TURF CLUB (SWITZERLAND).—SPOT, NORLAND, SAM, H. J. (Victoria Park).—We have frequently stated that whilst we believe the parties behind this concern to be respectable, we know nothing of the methods they propose to adopt in connection with their sweepstakes.

H. DIAMOND (LUCERNE).—REDHILL READER.—Lucerne is sufficient address.

D. ROBERTS (GENEVA).—BACKER complains that on January 21 he sent this man two coupons, one of which won at 20 to 1, and he forwarded claim in due course. For some time he was unable to get a reply, but was ultimately informed that no trace could be found of the coupons in question.

FAIRBURN AND CO. (GENEVA).—M. M. (Hackney).—We have no special information in regard to the methods of business of this firm, but the people over here who, we understand, are behind it, are well known and quite respectable.

T. G. SYNDICATE.—D. H. (Hampstead).—It is the fact that the sweepstakes now being worked from Geneva by this Syndicate are in no way under the auspices of the Turf Guardian Society, and we agree that the form of the circular and the title given to the sweepstakes are most misleading.

WHITE, FISHER AND CO.—H. J. (Everton).—Quite respectable.

E. LENDALE AND CO. (BIRSFELDEN).—E. B. Southampton).—A comparatively small firm, but, we believe, quite respectable.

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"JOHN BULL" DERBY SWEEPSTAKE.

Enormous interest has been aroused by the announcement that it is proposed to run a model Derby Sweepstake under the personal direction of the Editor of JOHN BULL, and full details of the scheme will shortly be announced. It may, however, we think, now be taken as certain that the First Prize will be not less than £5,000, with £1,000 for the Second horse, £500 for the Third, and substantial sums for all runners. In addition there will be a general distribution in respect of every horse originally entered in the race—numbering approximately, 350, with a thousand Consolation Prizes, and last, but not least, £1,000 for British Charities.

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Football Selections from the Principal Papers.

Matches to be played Saturday, 15th February, 1913.

In view of the enormous interest now taken in the competitions conducted by numerous papers, the following table of selections compiled from the principal football authorities will be found to be an extremely useful guide—

Matches played on ground of first-named team.	Last Year's Result.	JOHN BULL	Latimer's Weekly.	[illegible]	Umpire.	Sunday Chronicle.	Weekly Dispatch	News of the World.	[illegible]
SOUTHERN LEAGUE—2ND LEAGUE—1ST LEAGUE									
Aston V. v. Blackburn R.	Blackburn won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
Bolton W. v. Everton	Everton won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw	—	Home
Chelsea v. Woolwich A.	No Match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
Liverpool v. Sheffield Wed.	Draw	Draw	Home	Draw	Away	Home	Draw	Away	Draw
Manchester U. v. Derby C.	No match	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
Middlesbro'. v. Sunderland	Draw	Away	—	Home	Away	Away	Draw	Away	Draw
Newcastle Un. v. Manchester C.	Newcastle won	Home	Away	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
Notts C. v. Tottenham H.	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	Home	Home	Draw
Oldham A. v. Bradford C.	Oldham won	Home	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
Sheffield Un. v. West Brom. A.	Draw	Draw	—	Draw	Home	Home	Away	Draw	Draw
Barnsley v. Blackpool	Barnsley won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
Bradford v. Fulham	Fulham won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Draw
Burnley v. Birmingham	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw
Clapton O. v. Lincoln C.	No Match	Draw	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	Home	Draw
Glossop v. Notts F.	Draw	Away	Draw	Away	Away	Away	Away	Away	Draw
Hull C. v. Bristol C.	Hull C. won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home
Leicester F. v. Grimsby T.	Grimsby won	Away	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	Away	—	Draw
Preston N. E. v. Huddersfield	No Match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home
Stockport C. v. Leeds U.	Draw	Draw	Home	Draw	Away	Home	Draw	Home	Away
Wolverhampton v. Bury	No Match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
Swindon v. Gillingham	Swindon won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
Bristol R. v. Northampton	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home
Millwall A. v. Queen's P. R.	Draw	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	Away	Away	Home	Draw
Brentford v. Clapton	Stoke won	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Home
Portsmouth v. Norwich City	No Match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
Exeter C. v. Reading	Exeter won	Draw	Home	Home	Draw	Home	Draw	—	Draw
West Ham U. v. Southampton	Draw	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home
Brighton and H. v. Plymouth A.	Brighton won	Home	Home	Home	Draw	Draw	Home	—	Home
Coventry C. v. Crystal P.	Coventry won	Home	—	Draw	Home	Away	Away	Away	Home
Watford v. Merthyr T.	No match	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	Home	—	Home

Home signifies first mentioned team to win—Away second mentioned team to win.

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